SATURDAY
December 13, 2025
BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 294

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CENSUS PLAN

Govt. approves ₹11,718 crore for 2027 exercise

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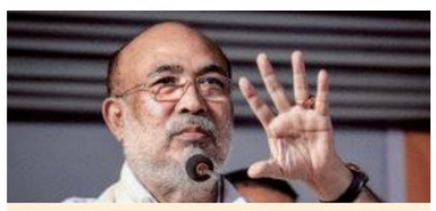
CONGRESS VETERAN

Former Minister Shivraj Patil passes away

NEWS » PAGE 12



STATE REVIEW

BJP summons Manipur MLAs for Delhi meeting

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GOA NIGHTCLUB FIRE

Party that took a tragic turn

The incident brings back concerns over unregulated tourism

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ALL SET

Messi's GOAT Tour of India from today

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188 zero enrolment schools in Karnataka

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

A total of 188 schools in the State, including 160 lower primary, 29 higher primary, and three high schools, have zero enrolment this year.

This was revealed by School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa while responding to a question by member K.S. Naveen in the Legislative Council.

Notably, Tumakuru educational district has the highest number of zero enrolment schools, with 45. Zero enrolment has been recorded in 21 schools in Kalaburagi district, 20 in Kolar, 18 in Koppal, 17 in Bidar, and 12 in Chitradurga.

Lower primary schools are the most among the zero enrollment schools. One high school each in Bengaluru South, Hassan, and Koppal districts have zero enrolment. The government also revealed that there is only one teacher in 6,675 schools.

Hassan has the highest number of such schools with 586, followed by Tumakuru (426), Kolar (347), Mandya (338), Chickballapur (334), Bengaluru South (298), and Mysuru (294).

Niranjanaradhya.V.P., development educationist, said this indicates the "pathetic conditions of government schools in the State".

"The declining enrolment and growing number of zero enrolment schools is not because parents are not interested in public schools. Rather, it could be attributed to the dereliction and abdication of the duty by the Department of Education to implement the fundamental right to education by providing minimum infrastructure facilities. The RTE compliance in the State is 23.6 %, much below the national average," he said.

RELATED REPORT ON
» PAGE 2

Retail inflation moves up marginally to 0.7% in Nov.

Inflation has slowed in seven of the first eight months of the financial year; decline in food prices offsets marginal acceleration in fuel inflation; prices in housing segment stay virtually unchanged

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation in India quickened marginally to 0.7% in November 2025, up from the historic low of 0.25% in October 2025, with a continued contraction in food prices offsetting a marginal acceleration in fuel inflation. November's inflation rate is the second-lowest ever recorded in the current series of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Inflation as measured by the CPI, for which the latest data were released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Friday, has slowed in seven of the first eight months of this financial year.

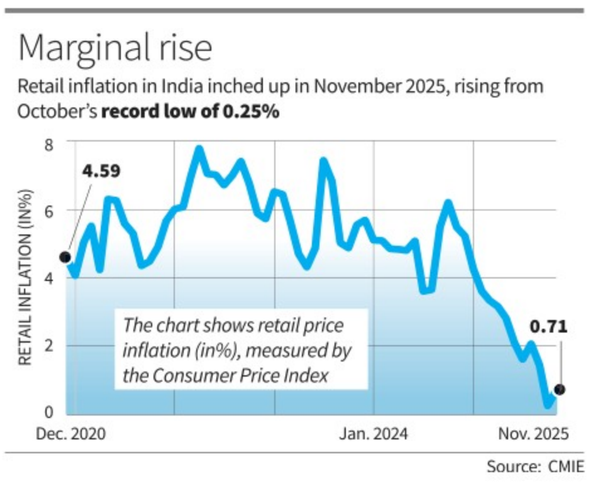
The food and beverages category saw prices contract by 2.8% in November 2025, as compared to a high base of 8.2% in November of last year, and a contraction of 3.7% in October 2025.

"The factors driving inflation downwards have been the same: base effect and decline in prices of vegetables and pulses," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda said. "In particular, potatoes, onions and tomatoes have witnessed a decline, leading to food inflation falling by 3.9%. In the food basket, edible oils witnessed sharp increases though the topline number was down to 7.9%. Mustard and coconut oil were the main drivers of inflation here."

This contraction in food prices offset the impact of a quickening in fuel inflation to 2.3% in November 2025, compared to 2% in October, and a contraction of 1.8% in November of last year. Inflation in the pan, tobacco, and intoxicants category quickened marginally in November 2025 to 3% from 2.9% in October.

The clothing and footwear category, on the other hand, saw inflation ease marginally to 1.5% from 1.7%.

Inflation in the housing category remained virtually unchanged at 2.95% in November 2025 as compared to 2.96% in October.



Source: CMIE

Former BJP MLA, son named prime accused in Aland voter fraud

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Subhash Guttedar

Former BJP MLA Subhash Guttedar and his son Harshananda Guttedar have been named as the prime accused in the chargesheet filed by the Karnataka police special investigation team (SIT) that is probing voter fraud in the Aland Assembly constituency ahead of the 2023 Assembly election in the State.

The alleged fraud involved forging forms to delete the names of almost 6,000 voters from the electoral roll in Aland. The BJP was in power in Karnataka at the time, and Mr. Guttedar was seeking re-election from the constituency.

Five others have also been accused in the chargesheet, and one person has been arrested, but the Guttedars have secured anticipatory bail.

On September 7, 2025, *The Hindu* had reported that the probe into the case had hit a roadblock, as the Election Commission (EC) was not sharing key technical data with investigators. Following this, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, held a press conference in Delhi and the State government formed an SIT to probe the matter.

Sources in the SIT said this was only the first chargesheet and more will follow as and when the EC provides the required data.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

NEARBY

DKS dinner meet creates buzz in political circles

BELAGAVI
A day after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra reiterated that the Congress high command has ruled out change of leadership in Karnataka, a dinner meeting attended by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar created a buzz in political circles. » PAGE 8

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 5

Game on

Right move: Chess grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa plays with schoolchildren during a tournament at the District Sports Club in Dharavi, Mumbai. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Bengaluru family attacked in Velankanni over inter-faith marriage; nine arrested

The Hindu Bureau
NAGAPATTINAM

Rahul and Keerthana got married at Velankanni before checking into a private lodge in the town.

Nine persons were arrested after a Bengaluru-based family was brutally attacked with sickles in Velankanni on Wednesday, following the marriage of a 22-year-old man to a woman against the wishes of her relatives.

According to the Velankanni police, Daniel, 49, a resident of Nagavara in Bengaluru, his wife Kalaiarasi, 38, their son Rahul, 22, and Rahul's friend Prakash, 34, had arrived in Velankanni on December 10.

Mr. Rahul had travelled with Keerthana, 20, with whom he was in a relationship, and the couple got married at Velankanni before checking into a private lodge in the town.

The police said that after learning about the marriage, Ms. Keerthana's parents, Raja Rao and his wife, along with her aunt and more than 15 relatives, travelled to Velankanni.

On Wednesday morning, the group confronted Mr. Rahul's family at the lodge and, in a fit of rage, allegedly attacked Mr. Rahul, Mr. Daniel, Ms. Kalaiarasi and Mr. Prakash with sickles and other weapons they had brought, before forcibly taking Ms. Keerthana away from the scene.

Hearing the commotion, residents and lodge staff rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to the Government Medical College Hospital, Orathur, where all the four were being treated in the intensive care unit.

Based on a complaint, the Velankanni police have registered a case under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including causing hurt with dangerous weapons, criminal trespass with intent to commit an offence, wrongful restraint, abduction of an adult without consent, criminal intimidation, attempt to cause grievous hurt, and unlawful assembly with weapons.

The police later arrested Venkob Rao, 32; Ramnath Rao, 40; Vijay, 35; Punithkumar, 37; Konanahalli Chandrappa, 33; Manjeshwari, 36; Raja Rao, 43; Savitha, 39, all from Bengaluru; and Karthi, 34, of Tiruvannamalai district.

Seven of the accused men have been lodged in the Nagapattinam District Prison while two women were sent to the Tiruvarur Sub-Jail for Women. Ms. Keerthana has since left the place with her grandfather.

GETTY IMAGES

Ayush Shetty

Tanvi Sharma

Future tense: can Indian badminton regain its glory days?

Less than a decade ago, the country had an abundance of superstars. But the next generation has struggled to produce the results fans had grown accustomed to. The talent is there, so what is stopping India's young shuttlers from crossing the line that separates the good from the great?

Uthra Ganesan

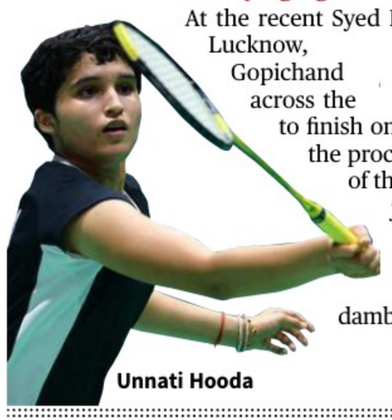
When Lakshya Sen concluded his season on November 23 with a 21-15, 21-11 win over Yushi Tanaka in the Australian Open final, he ended a title drought stretching back exactly 51 weeks to the day. It was a long-awaited victory not just for the 24-year-old but also for fans of Indian badminton who have been starved of success for a while now.

For a sport that ostensibly is only behind cricket in terms of popularity, has successfully made the transition from a recreational activity to a bonafide professional endeavour and, most importantly, has had the results to back its lofty status, Indian badminton has endured a rather long slump. And looking at the current scenario, it appears set to continue for a while.

> Very feisty and top-class youngsters are there. But everyone is messing up, they are in a hurry... No one's thinking long-term about developing their game
>
> **P. KASHYAP**
> Former India star

Worrying signs

At the recent Syed Modi India International in Lucknow, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand were the only Indians across the five competition categories to finish on top, retaining their title in the process. This, when almost 70% of the entries were Indians, with just a smattering of foreign names in the fray. Most top players had either not entered or withdrawn. Kidambi Srikanth, grinding his way back to the top echelons after a long spell of injury- and marriage-forced abstention, managed to reach the final.


Unnati Hooda

And this was only a Super 300 event on the Badminton World Federation's World Tour – technically, a Tier-V competition behind the World Tour Finals, Super 1000s, Super 750s and Super 500s. The last time an Indian man won a singles title in a top-four-tier event was two years ago (Lakshya). The last time an Indian woman did the same was three years back (P.V. Sindhu). For all its struggles with injuries and poor form, the Indian men's pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty remains the most consistent performer when it matters the most.

Indeed, in 2025, besides Lakshya, only three other Indians reached the final of a top-four tournament – Srikanth at the Malaysia Masters (Super 500) and Satwiksairaj and Chirag at the Hong Kong Open (Super 500) and China Masters (Super 750). The old warhorses are still going strong; the next generation, not so much.

"There was no centralised programme or even a plan to provide systemic training for the juniors earlier. We had two centres – in Bengaluru and Hyderabad – and only the top senior players would be training there, barring an occasional youngster who either had the means or was exceptional. With the NCOE in Guwahati, that has changed. It will take some time, but in the next three years, I am convinced we will see an entire generation of players dominating Indian and world badminton just like the previous one," Badminton Association of India general secretary Sanjay Mishra insists.

The youngsters are there, no doubt. Tanvi Sharma has been on a roll, reaching the final of the World Junior Championships and the US Open, a Super 300 event. She upset Nozomi Okuhara in Lucknow and has been consistently doing well for a 16-year-old. Unnati Hooda and Anmol Kharb, both 18, have been raising the bar. The women, in fact, are much better placed in terms of long-term prospects than the men.

Besides Sindhu, India has six women in the top-50, four of them still in their teens, Anupama Upadhyaya 20 and Malvika Bansod the oldest at 24. In the World Junior rankings, India has four women in the top-10, with Tanvi topping the chart. But they all still need to cross the thin line that separates good players from the truly great.

Lakshya and the rest

It's bleaker on the men's side. While Lakshya is still only 24 and can continue for many more years, the next crop is already at a stage when they should, ideally, be challenging the best. Kiran George is 25, Priyanshu Rajawat 23 and Tharun Mannepalli 24. Fragile bodies and injuries haven't helped any of them either. The only genuine next generation talent exciting enough to go all the way is 20-year-old Ayush Shetty.

"It is going to take another couple of years. We have Lakshya, who is still young, and the way he's going, I think he's going to be there for a fair bit. Ayush is coming up, Tharun was the next in line, Kiran George is anyway there. But there is inconsistency in them. Priyanshu came and then got injured, but his best is yet to come, probably next year. Others have to mature," P. Kashyap, former India star and now a coach, admits.

> There was no centralised programme or even a plan to provide systemic training for the juniors earlier. With the NCOE in Guwahati, that has changed. It will take some time, but in the next three years, I am convinced we will see an entire generation of players dominating
>
> **SANJAY MISHRA**
> BAI general secretary

He agrees that the system earlier was focused only on the seniors. "It's the hustle of the Olympics. Of course you have to focus on the guys who qualify. But until last year, there was no proper funding for the next generation. A new academy opened up here and there, the responsibilities get divided, it's everyone to themselves. The lag came because this system was getting scattered. It wasn't handled well and I think it just fell apart for the next generation. But now again, the next ones who are 18-21, it will take 2-3 years."

Less than a decade ago, Indian badminton had an abundance of superstars. From Saina Nehwal, Sindhu, Ashwini Ponnappa and Jwala Gutta to Srikanth, Kashyap, Ajay Jayaram, R.M.V. Guru Sai Dutt, the Verma brothers Sourabh and Sameer, Sai Praneeth and many more, it was a generation of achievers, with any of them capable of winning at any given tournament.

"We competed with each other and travelled together. In-house competition has to be bred, at the least the top players and prospects have to be identified and [they must] train together, with one-two people taking decisions. They can be anyone, but they should be Indian and with full charge. Taipei is doing their own thing, Japan, Malaysia too. We don't need to depend on foreigners," says Kashyap.

Former India coach and BAI selection committee member U. Vimal Kumar had told *The Hindu* that the youngsters were fickle, running after ranking points and participation without thinking about the quality of opposition. "The 17-19 years is the age when you beat better players, create upsets because that's when you are playing fearlessly and many are not doing that. By 20-23, you should be an established player and have beaten some good players," he had said.

Patience needed

Kashyap concurs. "Very feisty and top-class youngsters are there. But everyone is messing up, they are in a hurry and constantly moving bases. We need them to be patient, especially the parents because I see some very weird decisions. No one's thinking long-term about developing their game. Parents should be out, period."

Mishra agrees and feels the only thing holding Indian youngsters back is mentality and confidence. "The talent is there. Even among men, there is Sanskar Saraswat, who recently won the Guwahati Masters. There is Rounak Chouhan and Suryaksh Rawat. There is Tanoo Chandra and Tanvi Patri and Vennala Kalagotla. The more they play and win, the more confidence they will get and that's all they need," he declares.

Priyanshu Rajawat

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	22	12,050	19
2	Jannik Sinner	24	11,500	18
3	Alexander Zverev	28	5,160	24
4	Novak Djokovic	38	4,830	20
5	Felix Auger-Aliassime	25	4,245	28
6	Taylor Fritz	28	4,135	19
7	Alex de Minaur	26	4,135	23
8	Lorenzo Musetti	23	4,040	23
9	Ben Shelton	23	3,970	23
10	Jack Draper	23	2,990	17
11	Alexander Bublik	28	2,870	29
12	Casper Ruud	26	2,835	21
13	Daniil Medvedev	29	2,760	24
14	A. Davidovich Fokina	26	2,635	26
15	Holger Rune	22	2,590	21

Top Indians ▸

Sumit Nagal
Rank 277 NO CHANGE

Aryan Shah
Rank 414 ▲ 1 spot

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	27	10,870	21
2	Iga Swiatek	24	8,395	21
3	Coco Gauff	21	6,763	21
4	Amanda Anisimova	24	6,287	23
5	Elena Rybakina	26	5,850	23
6	Jessica Pegula	31	5,583	23
7	Madison Keys	30	4,335	21
8	Jasmine Paolini	29	4,325	19
9	Mirra Andreeva	18	4,319	19
10	Ekaterina Alexandrova	31	3,375	27
11	Belinda Bencic	28	3,119	21
12	Clara Tauson	22	2,770	23
13	Linda Noskova	21	2,641	25
14	Elina Svitolina	31	2,606	16
15	Emma Navarro	24	2,515	25

Top Indians ▸

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 305 ▲ 1 spot

Shrivalli Bhamidipaty
Rank 397 ▲ 4 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	15	10	3	2	28	9	19	33
2	Man. City	15	10	1	4	35	16	19	31
3	Aston Villa	15	9	3	3	22	15	7	30
4	Crystal Palace	15	7	5	3	20	12	8	26
5	Chelsea	15	7	4	4	25	15	10	25
6	Man. United	15	7	4	4	26	22	4	25
7	Everton	15	7	3	5	18	17	1	24
8	Brighton	15	6	5	4	25	21	4	23
9	Sunderland	15	6	5	4	18	17	1	23
10	Liverpool	15	7	2	6	24	24	0	23
11	Tottenham	15	6	4	5	25	18	7	22
12	Newcastle	15	6	4	5	21	19	2	22
13	Bournemouth	15	5	5	5	21	24	-3	20
14	Brentford	15	6	1	8	21	24	-3	19
15	Fulham	15	5	2	8	20	24	-4	17
16	Leeds United	15	4	3	8	19	29	-10	15
17	N. Forest	15	4	3	8	14	25	-11	15
18	West Ham	15	3	4	8	17	29	-12	13
19	Burnley	15	3	1	11	16	30	-14	10
20	Wolves	15	0	2	13	8	33	-25	2

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	AC Milan	14	9	4	1	22	11	11	31
2	Napoli	14	10	1	3	22	12	10	31
3	Inter Milan	14	10	0	4	32	13	19	30
4	Roma	14	9	0	5	15	8	7	27
5	Bologna	14	7	4	3	23	12	11	25
6	Como	14	6	6	2	19	11	8	24
7	Juventus	14	6	5	3	18	14	4	23
8	Sassuolo	14	6	2	6	19	17	2	20
9	Cremonese	14	5	5	4	18	17	1	20
10	Lazio	14	5	4	5	16	11	5	19
11	Udinese	14	5	3	6	15	22	-7	18
12	Atalanta	14	3	7	4	17	17	0	16
13	Cagliari	14	3	5	6	14	19	-5	14
14	Genoa	14	3	5	6	15	21	-6	14
15	Parma	14	3	5	6	10	17	-7	14
16	Torino	14	3	5	6	14	26	-12	14
17	Lecce	14	3	4	7	10	19	-9	13
18	Pisa	14	1	7	6	10	19	-9	10
19	Verona	14	1	6	7	11	21	-10	9
20	Fiorentina	14	0	6	8	11	24	-13	6

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	16	13	1	2	47	20	27	40
2	Real Madrid	16	11	3	2	32	15	17	36
3	Villarreal	15	11	2	2	31	13	18	35
4	Atletico Madrid	16	9	4	3	28	15	13	31
5	Espanyol	15	8	3	4	19	16	3	27
6	Real Betis	15	6	6	3	25	19	6	24
7	Athletic Club	16	7	2	7	15	20	-5	23
8	Getafe	15	6	2	7	13	17	-4	20
9	Elche	15	4	7	4	18	17	1	19
10	Celta Vigo	15	4	7	4	18	19	-1	19
11	Alaves	15	5	3	7	13	15	-2	18
12	Rayo Vallecano	15	4	5	6	13	16	-3	17
13	Sevilla	15	5	2	8	20	24	-4	17
14	Real Sociedad	15	4	4	7	19	22	-3	16
15	Osasuna	15	4	3	8	14	18	-4	15
16	Valencia	15	3	6	6	14	23	-9	15
17	Real Mallorca	15	3	5	7	15	22	-7	14
18	Girona	15	2	6	7	13	29	-16	12
19	Real Oviedo	15	2	4	9	7	22	-15	10
20	Levante	15	2	3	10	16	28	-12	9

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	13	12	1	0	49	9	40	37
2	RB Leipzig	13	9	2	2	28	13	15	29
3	Dortmund	13	8	4	1	23	11	12	28
4	Leverkusen	13	7	2	4	28	19	9	23
5	Hoffenheim	13	7	2	4	25	19	6	23
6	Stuttgart	13	7	1	5	21	22	-1	22
7	E. Frankfurt	13	6	3	4	28	29	-1	21
8	Cologne	13	4	4	5	22	21	1	16
9	Freiburg	13	4	4	5	20	22	-2	16
10	M'gladbach	13	4	4	5	17	19	-2	16
11	Werder	13	4	4	5	18	24	-6	16
12	Union Berlin	13	4	3	6	16	22	-6	15
13	Hamburg	13	4	3	6	14	20	-6	15
14	FC Augsburg	13	4	1	8	17	27	-10	13
15	Wolfsburg	13	3	3	7	17	23	-6	12
16	Heidenheim	13	3	2	8	12	28	-16	11
17	St Pauli	13	2	2	9	11	25	-14	8
18	Mainz	13	1	3	9	11	24	-13	6

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	898	932
2	Kane Williamson	827	919
3	Steve Smith	823	947
4	Harry Brook	820	898
5	Kamindu Mendis	781	784
6	Temba Bavuma	775	806
7	Travis Head	774	884
8	Yashasvi Jaiswal	750	858
9	Daryl Mitchell	741	804
10	Saud Shakeel	734	787

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	879	908
2	Matt Henry	853	853
3	Mitchell Starc	852	852
4	Noman Ali	843	853
5	Marco Jansen	825	825
6	Pat Cummins	821	914
7	Kagiso Rabada	807	902
8	Josh Hazlewood	799	864
9	Scott Boland	770	784
10	Nathan Lyon	757	812

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rohit Sharma	781	882
2	Virat Kohli	773	909
3	Daryl Mitchell	766	782
4	Ibrahim Zadran	764	764
5	Shubman Gill	723	847
6	Babar Azam	722	898
7	Harry Tector	708	767
8	Shai Hope	701	802
9	Charith Asalanka	690	725
10	Shreyas Iyer	679	710

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	710	799
2	Jofra Archer	670	683
3	Kuldeep Yadav	655	761
4	Maheesh Theekshana	647	686
5	Keshav Maharaj	646	741
6	Bernard Scholtz	645	648
7	Mitchell Santner	636	657
8	Josh Hazlewood	628	727
9	Abrar Ahmed	624	630
10	Matt Henry	619	691

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	913	931
2	Phil Salt	849	881
3	Pathum Nissanka	779	794
4	Jos Buttler	770	794
5	Sahibzada Farhan	752	776
6	Tilak Varma	750	845
7	Travis Head	713	885
8	Dewald Brevis	685	685
9	Mitchell Marsh	684	694
9	Suryakumar Yadav	684	912

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Varun Chakaravarthy	782	803
2	Jacob Duffy	699	750
3	Rashid Khan	694	828
4	Abrar Ahmed	691	703
5	Wanindu Hasaranga	687	809
6	Adil Rashid	686	747
7	Akeal Hosein	675	726
8	Mustafizur Rahman	665	718
9	Nathan Ellis	660	678
10	Adam Zampa	655	746

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Govt. schools see 1.68L fewer class 1 enrolments than private ones

From 2015-16 to 2025-26, enrolment in such schools has declined from 47.1 lakh to 38.2 lakh

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Continuing the trend of declining enrolments in government schools of Karnataka, private schools had 1,68,132 more enrolments for class 1 than government schools in 2025-26.

Responding to a question by member K.S. Naveen regarding the enrolment of school students, School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa said in the Legislative Council recently there are 46,460 government schools in the State, and 3,42,756 students, including 1,66,205 boys and 1,76,551 girls, have been enrolled in class 1 in the current academic year.

In contrast, the total number of students enrolled in about 19,000 private schools is 5,10,888. Of these, 2,76,863 are boys and 2,34,025 are girls. At the same time, 50,238 children are enrolled in class 1 in about 5,000 aided schools.

There has been a continuing trend in the decline of enrolments in government schools of Karnataka. FILE PHOTO

Student enrolment

Type of schools	Number of schools	Students enrolled for class 1
Govt.	46,460	3,42,756
Private	About 19,000	5,10,888
Aided	About 5,000	50,238

In Bengaluru South educational district, the largest number, 1,00,724 students, are enrolled in private schools, while only 12,834 students are enrolled in government schools.

On the other hand, in Uttara Kannada-Sirsi educational district, only 2,030 children are enrolled in private schools, while 6,096 are enrolled in government schools. In Raichur district, a total of 21,520 students are enrolled in government schools.

From 2015-16 to 2025-26, enrolment in government schools has declined from 47.1 lakh to 38.2 lakh (19%).

At the same time, enrolment in private schools increased from 36.3 lakh to 47 lakh (29%).

Umesh G. Gangavadi, State president of School Development Monitoring Committee (SDMC), said the government should make serious efforts to save government schools by increasing the quality of education and basic facilities.

"The number of students in government schools is declining year after year. Parents are getting attracted towards private schools and Central Board schools for facilities and quality education. The government is calling KPS Magnet Schools as the only solution to save government schools. But merging small neighbourhood schools with KPS magnet schools is an anti-student move. This will lead to more children turning away from local government schools," he added.

170 government schools in Karnataka do not have a toilet

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Some government schools in Karnataka are suffering from a lack of basic infrastructure, with 170 schools lacking a toilet. In addition, 61 government schools do not have any drinking water facility, School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa stated in response to a question by Member of Legislative Council (MLC) N. Ravikumar about the basic infrastructure in government schools in the State.

According to the information provided by the Minister, Karnataka has 46,460 government schools, and 40,74,525 students have been enrolled for the year 2025-26. Out of these, 46,290 schools have a toilet.

According to the Minister, a total of 701 government schools do not have a separate toilet for girls, and 2,039 government schools do not have a separate toilet for boys, forcing all students to use common toilets.

Government schools in Bengaluru are also not exempt from this problem.

"Ours is a higher primary school, with 307 students studying from classes 1 to 8. Of these, 152 are girls. However, there is no separate toilet for such a large number of girls. There are only five toilets in the school, and all the students have to use these. Although a request has been made to the authorities for construction of additional toilets, it is yet to be implemented. A request has been made to a non-governmental organisation (NGO) recently to build separate toilets for girls and boys, but the project has not been implemented yet," said the Head Master of a government school at Laggere in Bengaluru.

School Education and Literacy Minister says government schools in Bengaluru are also not exempt from this problem. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Thousands of Children With Special Needs (CwSN) also study in government schools across Karnataka, but the government has failed to build CwSN-friendly toilets. There are no separate toilets for CwSN students in a total of 39,478 government schools in the State.

"In addition, 4,755 schools do not have compound walls," the Minister stated.

"The government has a misconception about Person with Disabilities (PwD). There are 21 types of PwD, and basic facilities, including toilets, should be developed in any school, keeping in mind CwSN students. In addition, our teachers are not trained on how to teach CwSN children. Due to this, children are lagging behind in learning. The government should formulate any school project keeping in mind CwSN students," said Nagasimha Rao, a child rights activist.

> There are a total of 21 types of Persons with Disabilities, and basic facilities, including toilets, should be developed in any school, keeping in mind Children With Special Needs
>
> **NAGASIMHA RAO,** Child rights activist.

Giving information about the development of basic facilities in schools, the Minister said that 9,878 rooms have been repaired and 7,650 toilets have been built in the last three years.

He said that, in 2025-26, a grant of ₹360 crore has been allocated for the construction of classrooms, ₹100 crore for repairs, and ₹90 crore for the construction of toilets, and the action plan approval process is in progress.

Karnataka and T.N. students show higher empathy and pro-wildlife attitudes: Study

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A study by the Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS) on the Wild Shaale environmental education programme across three States in the Western Ghats region has revealed that Karnataka and Tamil Nadu students showed higher empathy and pro-wildlife attitudes. Goa students displayed stronger baseline environmental knowledge.

The research titled 'Scaling environmental education across diverse socio-ecological contexts: Insights from the Wild Shaale program in India' is authored by Krithi K. Karanth (CWS; Duke University), Sruthi Unnikrishnan (CWS), and Gabby Salazar (University of Florida).

The study examines the effectiveness and scalability of the Wild Shaale environmental education programme across three Indian states in the Western Ghats region. FILE PHOTO

The Wild Shaale programme was designed by CWS to bring interactive conservation learning to rural schools near wildlife reserves.

Between June 2022 and February 2023, the programme reached 7,381 students, aged 10 to 13, from 200 government schools in Goa, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

The research found that participation in Wild Shaale led to measurable learning gains, with students showing up to 34% higher environmental knowledge and 31% better awareness of safe practices around wildlife.

CWS said that correct answers on environmental knowledge questions rose by as much as 25% points, and students were two to three times more likely to respond correctly to safety questions after the programme.

"In Goa, for instance, the share of students correctly identifying what animals need to survive increased from 40% to 66%, while in Karnataka, correct safety responses nearly doubled from 24% to 49%. These improvements were consistent across genders, with equal participation of boys and girls," CWS said.

"It is very exciting to see that working with children generates such wonderful insights that can enable long-term conservation stewardship of India's wildlife and wild places," Dr. Karanth, lead author of the study said.

AI Centre of Excellence for Healthcare established at IISc

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Translational AI for Networked Universal Healthcare (TANUH) Foundation has been established at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru as a dedicated AI Centre of Excellence in Healthcare to advance AI-driven healthcare innovation at scale in the country.

This has been established in line with the government of India's vision of 'Make AI in India and Make AI Work for India', and the Ministry of Education has set up four Centres of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence (AI-CoEs), each hosted by a premier academic institution in India, including IISc. The institute stated that the TANUH AI-CoE is a Section 8 not-for-profit company that focuses on developing and deploying scalable AI solutions for the effective management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) at the point of care. The centre operates as a multidisciplinary hub, bringing together clinicians, data scientists, and AI researchers.

Nine faculty members from IISc, spanning digital health, machine learning, and public health, anchor the centre's research programmes. TANUH's core team, comprising executives, engineers, programme managers, and research staff, with significant industry experience, enables the translation of health-AI technologies from the lab to the population scale.

TANUH's goal is to design and deploy tools for early detection, risk prediction, monitoring and personalised solutions across high-burden conditions such as oral cancer, breast cancer, retinal diseases, diabetes, and mental health. The tools will help frontline health workers, improve primary and hospital care, and include human decision-making to make sure the care is safe and effective. The solutions are designed to be used directly where patients are treated, follow responsible AI standards, and are created and tested together with doctors and researchers.

Rapid tech shifts outpace traditional security models, say experts

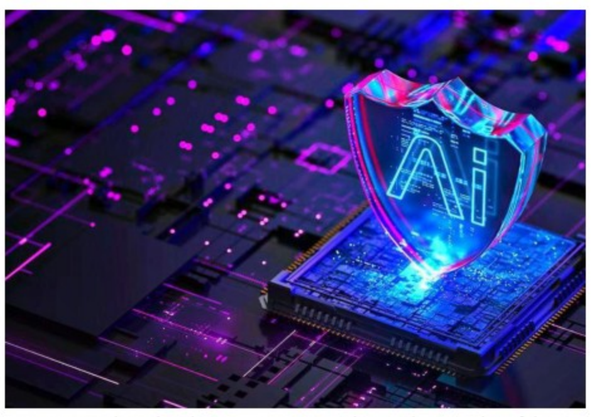
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While India has invested significantly in ensuring instant, affordable and secure payment transactions, and has strengthened its digital foundations, the threat landscape around us is also evolving at an unprecedented pace, said M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.

He was virtually addressing the roundtable conference on digital security and national sovereignty organised by Synergia Foundation.

Noting that there has been a surge in AI-driven threats, deepfakes, ransomware attacks, and so on, Mr. Nagaraju noted that attackers are showing increased capabilities to bypass traditional securities.

Stressing on the importance of collaboration between various stakeholders to overcome such threats, he said that banks, fintechs, technology companies, regulators NBFCs are different parts of a larger canvas. "When they come together, the picture becomes clearer," he said.



Experts say there has been a surge in AI-driven threats, deepfakes, and ransomware attacks. GETTY IMAGES

Innovation and security

Ranjeet Mishra, CEO at Centre of Excellence for Cybersecurity, Karnataka, suggested that in the context of digital systems evolving faster than regulations and oversight models, industry and government must co-create standards which balance innovation with security.

"Cyber risk are now national risks. A single breach in telecom, finance, energy or in any of the critical infrastructure can cascade across all Indian economy. Cyberattacks are now also increasingly becoming more geopolitical. They are using it for disrupting trust, destabilising markets, and also undermine critical infrastructure. This means that cybersecurity can no longer be treated as an IT telecom problem. It must be treated as a broader policy level priority which has to be embedded into our national programme and enterprise strategy," he said.

Noting that emerging technologies are outpacing current security models, he suggested that India should prepare to migrate critical systems towards post quantum security, secure digital supply chain with greater transparency, and encourage more indigenous security innovation.

"We have to encourage more of the public sector entities and classified agencies to start embedding security, by design, to all their tech initiatives," he said, while exhorting to take a collective path forward.

The speakers included G. Satheesh Reddy, former Chairman, DRDO; Rajesh Pant, chairman, Cyber Security Association of India; Pratap Reddy, former DGP, Karnataka; and Vinayak Godse, CEO, Data Security Council of India, among others. Mr. Pant advocated for a centralised organisation responsible for cybersecurity, while Mr. Pratap Reddy stressed on the importance of capacity building and creating trust between corporates, people, and government.

BUSINESS CONNECT — A Business Initiative

Asia Jewels Show 2025

The Asia Jewels Show 2025, South India's premier luxury fine-jewellery exhibition, returns to Bengaluru for its 61st edition from 12-14 December 2025 at the Shangri-La Hotel. This special Wedding & Festive Luxury Edition will feature exclusive, never-seen-before designs from top jewellery brands and designers across India. The show was inaugurated on 12 December at 12 noon and showcasing a wide range of premium collections—gold, diamond, platinum, wedding, antique, kundan, jadau, polki, precious stones, silver, and lab-grown diamond jewellery. Leading designers and brands from Bangalore, Mumbai, Delhi, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Surat, Ahmedabad and more will present their latest creations, making it a one-stop luxury destination for festive and bridal jewellery shopping. Organized by HRS Media, the event offers shoppers the chance to buy or pre-book world-class jewellery under one roof. For details email info@hrsmedia.in, or visit the official website.

St. John's Medical College Hospital Celebrates Golden Jubilee: 50 Years of Compassionate Healing

St. John's Medical College Hospital, Bengaluru, celebrated its Golden Jubilee, marking 50 years of compassionate healthcare and service. The event, held at the Academy Auditorium, featured dignitaries including Karnataka ministers Ramalinga Reddy and Dinesh Gundu Rao, as well as prominent church leaders. Rev. Fr. Jesudoss Rajamanickam, Director, St. John's, welcomed the gathering and reflected proudly on the journey of 50 years of compassionate healing, upholding the founding vision that "even the least deserves the best." Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao appreciated the unwavering commitment of St. John's to healing with compassion. Chief Guest Shri Ramalinga Reddy highlighted St. John's remarkable contribution to society through not only its hospital services but also the medical college, nursing college and research division. Highlights included the release of a Golden Jubilee Souvenir, tributes to senior doctors with over five decades of service, and reflections on the institution's enduring mission to provide high-quality, non-commercialized healthcare. The Golden Jubilee marks a moment of gratitude, celebration, and renewed commitment to service, research, and education toward a healthier tomorrow.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds Unveils Grand 15th Edition of 'Brides of India' Campaign, Celebrating India's Diverse Bridal Heritage

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has launched the 15th edition of its flagship Brides of India campaign, celebrating the rich diversity of Indian bridal traditions. Featuring 22 brides and 10 celebrities, the campaign showcases jewellery crafted to honour regional customs and personal stories. Alongside the relaunch, the brand is offering up to 30% off on making charges for gold, gemstone jewellery, and up to 30% off on diamond value until January 18, 2026. Directed by Abhishek Varman with music by Shubhajit Mukherjee, the campaign film highlights India's cultural and emotional bridal heritage. Chairman M. P. Ahammed emphasized the company's commitment to craftsmanship, transparency and meaningful, trustworthy jewellery.

GETTY IMAGES

I know how badly I want to win an Olympic medal. That hunger is in me

Nikhat Zareen is a richly decorated boxer, but she has her eyes set on the ultimate prize. In this conversation after claiming gold in the World Boxing Cup Finals, the two-time World champion talks about the relief of ending a medal drought, what her near- and long-term plans are, how she bounces back so often, and why she doesn't discuss her boxing life with her family

INTERVIEW

Nikhat Zareen

Y.B. Sarangi

At 29, two-time World champion Nikhat Zareen is wise beyond her years. She has moved on from her disappointing experience in the Paris Olympics, where she lost to eventual champion Wu Yu in the 50kg pre-quarterfinals. "My mindset is to work hard and give my best," she says. "I know how hard I worked for Paris. Some things are not in our destiny."

Famed for her resilience, Nikhat, who exited in the 51kg quarterfinals of the Liverpool World Championships earlier this year, regained her aura by securing a gold in the World Boxing Cup Finals on home turf at Greater Noida and ended 2025 on a happier note.

In a chat with *The Hindu*, Nikhat reflected on her Paris ordeal and looked ahead to a busy 2026 calendar, the 2028 Olympics, and other ambitions. Excerpts:

How do you feel after winning the World Boxing Cup Finals gold medal?

> I have already finished the Paris chapter. I have started with LA. I have started to manifest for that. If it's written in my destiny, I will win a medal there

Honestly, there was no competition [at the event]. But there is some relief that I won a medal on the international stage [after one-and-a-half years; the gold at the Elorda Cup in Astana in May 2024 was her previous medal]. I focused on my knee [minor meniscus injury], did my rehab at the Gopichand Academy [in Hyderabad after the Paris Olympics]. When my rehab was over in December, I started my training at the Army Sports Institute, Pune, in January. I used to spar with the boys there.

After that, I competed in a domestic event in Hyderabad. I got injured there, that was also an obstacle on my path. I gave a good performance during the [selection] assessment at the camp, so I was selected for the World Championships in Liverpool. I won two World Championships [earlier]. This time I fought with the Olympic silver medallist [Turkey's Buse Naz Cakiroglu] in the quarterfinals [and lost].

After a long break, I was coming back to the international stage. I don't think I performed badly. It was a learning experience for me. As soon as I came back from Liverpool, I stayed at my place for three-four days. Then I returned to [SAI NSNIS] Patiala to start my training. I prepared for the World Cup Finals and won the gold medal.

You have seen a lot of ups and downs in your career. How did the previous experience help you in your fightback this time?

When I am in my low phase, it is a lonely time for me. I don't discuss my boxing life with my family. They don't understand boxing. I am the kind of person who doesn't like to share what is going on in my mind until and unless I am comfortable with you. I talked to myself. I went to Kashmir. It was a good trip. After coming back from Kashmir, I felt like I could restart again. It helped me a lot. There are ups and downs in life. You can't expect to win a gold medal all the time. You are a human being, not a robot. Athletes have a small career. In combat sports, you can't expect to be at your peak level all the time. You need to accept a few things in your life and keep moving forward. I am moving forward with the same mindset. I am working hard. I don't have control over my performances. It's all about giving my best. My mindset is to work hard and give my best. I don't have control over the results.

> You need fitness to box in smaller weight categories. You can't do it without fitness. If I don't train for a week and spar with a regular boxer, I will get beaten up

How difficult is it to be a two-time World champion, especially with a lot of expectations from people, when you take part in a big event like the Olympics?

It's not easy to be a two-time World champion. I know how important it is for me to be a two-time World champion. When I wasn't a two-time World champion, people didn't have high expectations. Now that I am, they have high expectations. It's their problem. Why do you have high expectations [from me] after I became a World champion? If you had given me so much love earlier, I would have done better. I know how badly I want to win an Olympic medal. That hunger is in me. I know I want that medal. I am doing it for myself, not for them. I want to be selfish. I want to win a medal for my country.

People will support you. People will criticise you. That's their point of view. I know how hard I worked for the medal. I know how hard I worked for Paris. Some things are not in our hands. Some things are not in our destiny. God must have written something better in my life.

That's why I moved on from Paris. If I repeat the same thing again and again, I won't be able to move forward. I have already finished the Paris chapter. I have started with LA. I have started to manifest for that. If it's written in my destiny, I will win a medal there.

How difficult is it to win an Olympic medal? How much more will you have to work for LA28?

You need fitness to box in smaller weight categories. You can't do it without fitness. Competition is neck-and-neck in smaller weight categories. If I don't train for a week and spar with a regular boxer, I will get beaten up. There's a big difference in stamina and punches. If you don't train for a week, you cannot have your eyes set. There's no movement, no accuracy and no precision in punches. That's why I don't stop training. I keep going.

Are you planning to become a pro after LA28?

I haven't thought about it yet. If I had won a medal in Paris, I would have become a pro by now. But maybe god has different plans for me. In the pro category, you can earn money. But an Olympic medal is an Olympic medal. I want an Olympic medal. Money is not important.

There is some talk that you are working to set up an academy. Is that true?

Yes, talks are on with the Telangana Government about the academy. There are a lot of young boxers who are idolising me and taking to boxing in Telangana. I want to find a way for them to train and grow. If I open my own academy, groom the talent and help them make it big, then that would be a great achievement for me.

GAME THEORY

Pink-ball overlords

Australia continued its dominance of day-night Test cricket with a comprehensive win over England in the second Ashes fixture.

The pink-ball Test has become a staple of the Australian summer, with its players featuring in more such games than those from other teams. Given that the pink ball typically darts around under lights, it's not an easy game for batters.

But Marnus Labuschagne has excelled at the format. Mitchell Starc has been the standout pink-ball bowler, claiming more than twice as many wickets as the next man on the list. He also features among the top 10 run-scorers.

MOST RUNS

Batter	Team	Tests	Runs	Ave	HS	100s
Marnus Labuschagne	Australia	10	1026	60.35	163	4
Steve Smith	Australia	14	899	39.08	130	1
Travis Head	Australia	11	774	48.37	175	3
David Warner	Australia	9	753	47.06	335*	1
Joe Root	England	8	654	46.71	138*	2
Usman Khawaja	Australia	9	575	35.93	145	1
Azhar Ali	Pakistan	4	474	67.71	302*	1
Mitchell Starc	Australia	15	403	26.86	77	0
Asad Shafiq	Pakistan	4	401	50.12	137	2
Alex Carey	Australia	7	345	31.36	65	0

MOST WICKETS

Bowler	Team	Tests	Wkts	Ave	Strike-rate	5-fors
Mitchell Starc	Australia	15	89	17.11	32.9	6
Pat Cummins	Australia	9	43	17.34	37.2	2
Nathan Lyon	Australia	13	43	25.62	59.6	1
Josh Hazlewood	Australia	9	40	18.50	43.2	2
James Anderson	England	6	24	16.25	45.8	1
Stuart Broad	England	7	23	26.26	57.3	0
Scott Boland	Australia	5	21	17.66	35.7	0
R. Ashwin	India	5	19	15.89	33.5	0
Yasir Shah	Pakistan	4	18	46.44	79.0	2
Tim Southee	New Zealand	4	17	29.47	52.4	1

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO.COM

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Not cold feet

Ice dance is a two-person discipline of figure skating that draws from ballroom dancing.

It differs from pair skating in its focus on intricate footwork executed in close dance-holds, set to music. Unlike in pair skating, the height of lifts is restricted. Throws and jumps are disallowed.

Ice dance first featured in the World Figure Skating Championships in 1952, 24 years before becoming an Olympic medal sport in 1976.

Its origin can be traced to the 19th century, when waltzes, marches, and other social dances were skated in winter as recreation.

Except for a period in the 1970s, when there was a movement to a more theatrical style, ice dance has stayed true to its ballroom roots, with an emphasis on skating skills.

In competition, athletes must perform specific elements, including dance lifts, dance spins, step sequences, twizzles (multi-rotational one-foot turns) and other choreographic sections.

The competition format comprises two segments: the shorter rhythm dance and the more creative free dance. This photograph from Nagoya portrays the latter.

Are Urvashi's days too numbered?

The iconic single screen in south Bengaluru, which has had over a 50-year run, is in the midst of a land litigation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Still reeling from the recent loss of Cauvery theatre, Bengaluru cine buffs may be in for more heartbreak. Urvashi Cinema, one of the biggest and finest single screens of the city, is staring at a possible closure.

Located at Lalbagh junction, the theatre may have to end its glorious run of 50 years owing to a land-related litigation. Established in the 1970s, Urvashi was known for its top-notch technology that offered an immersive cinematic experience.

Until its recent golden brown avatar, fans of the theatres will remember its iconic blue hued structure. If it closes, Urvashi will join Cauvery and Kapali in the list of popular 1,000-seaters to become part of the city's cherished memory.

Urvashi was one of the single screens that tried to reinvent itself and adapt to technology.

More than a decade ago, the theatre adopted 4K digital projector and Meyer Sound. Add to this, the xpanD active shutter 3D glasses and fans got a spectacular, IMAX-like experience.

Established in the 1970s, Urvashi was known for its top-notch technology that offered an immersive cinematic experience. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Case background

The saga goes back to 1970 when Sreenivasa Enterprises got the land on lease for 45 years from landlords B.K. Govindaraj (who is no more now, and is represented by his legal representatives) and family to construct a theatre and operate it on the land.

The operational lease period of 42 years commenced in 1976 with the opening of the theatre and screening of the first film show and the lease ranged from ₹750 per month to a maximum of ₹1,375 per month during the past 42 years.

The lease period ended in April, 2018, leading to civil suit by Sreenivasa Enterprises and its partners for its extension in terms of a provision in the lease agreement. However, landlords too had filed a suit for eviction of the tenants.

A Bengaluru civil court on February 15, 2024, passed a decree for eviction of tenants asking them vacate the land within two-and-a-half year from the date of the decree, besides asking the tenants to pay a rent of ₹6.25 lakh per month from April 2018, till handing over of the land. The landlords had sought ₹25 lakh per month.

Both the parties filed appeals in the High Court of Karnataka, which in its October 13, 2025, verdict directed tenants to hand over the vacant land, by demolishing the existing buildings, to the landlords by February 15, 2026.

The High Court also said that the tenants have to pay profits/damages at the rate of ₹20 lakh per month from April 2018 till handing over of the land to the landlords.

Following an issue over non extension of lease, the Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru Urban in February, 2024, cancelled the licence for cinema exhibition in Urvashi but the cinema exhibition is continuing, based on a stay granted by the court on cancellation of license on a petition, filed by Sreenivasa Enterprises, which is pending for final adjudication.

Meanwhile, Sreenivasa Enterprises has also filed review petitions before the High Court, seeking review of the October 13 verdict and these petitions are in the scrutiny stages and are yet to come up for hearing.

Man tries to save parrot, dies of electrocution

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 33-year-old man died of electrocution while trying to save a pet parrot that had flown onto a high-tension electricity wire inside a residential apartment complex in Girinagar on Friday.

The victim, identified as Arun Kumar, a native of Nagamangala in Mandya, had come to visit his relatives who reside in the apartment building when the incident occurred. The police said the mishap occurred around 9.30 a.m. when the parrot escaped from the house and settled on a high-tension wire on the premises.

The police have registered a case of unnatural death and are investigating the incident.

'Suspected' airgun pellet injures man

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 57-year-old businessman from Basavanagudi suffered injuries after a pellet, suspected to be from an airgun, allegedly struck him on the neck recently near Krishna Rao Park between 8 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.

The man, identified as D. Rajagopal, runs a restaurant in the same locality, police officials said.

A senior police official said, "Mr. Rajagopal was taking a walk with a relative when he suddenly heard a sharp sound and immediately felt a stinging pain behind his left ear. Realising he may have been hit by a pellet, he was rushed to a hospital and then lodged a police complaint."

Youth killed after being hit by vehicle linked to son of ex-Minister H.M. Revanna

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A youth lost his life in a road collision at Magadi in Bengaluru South district late on December 11 night, allegedly involving a vehicle registered under the name of Shashank Revanna, son of former Minister H.M. Revanna.

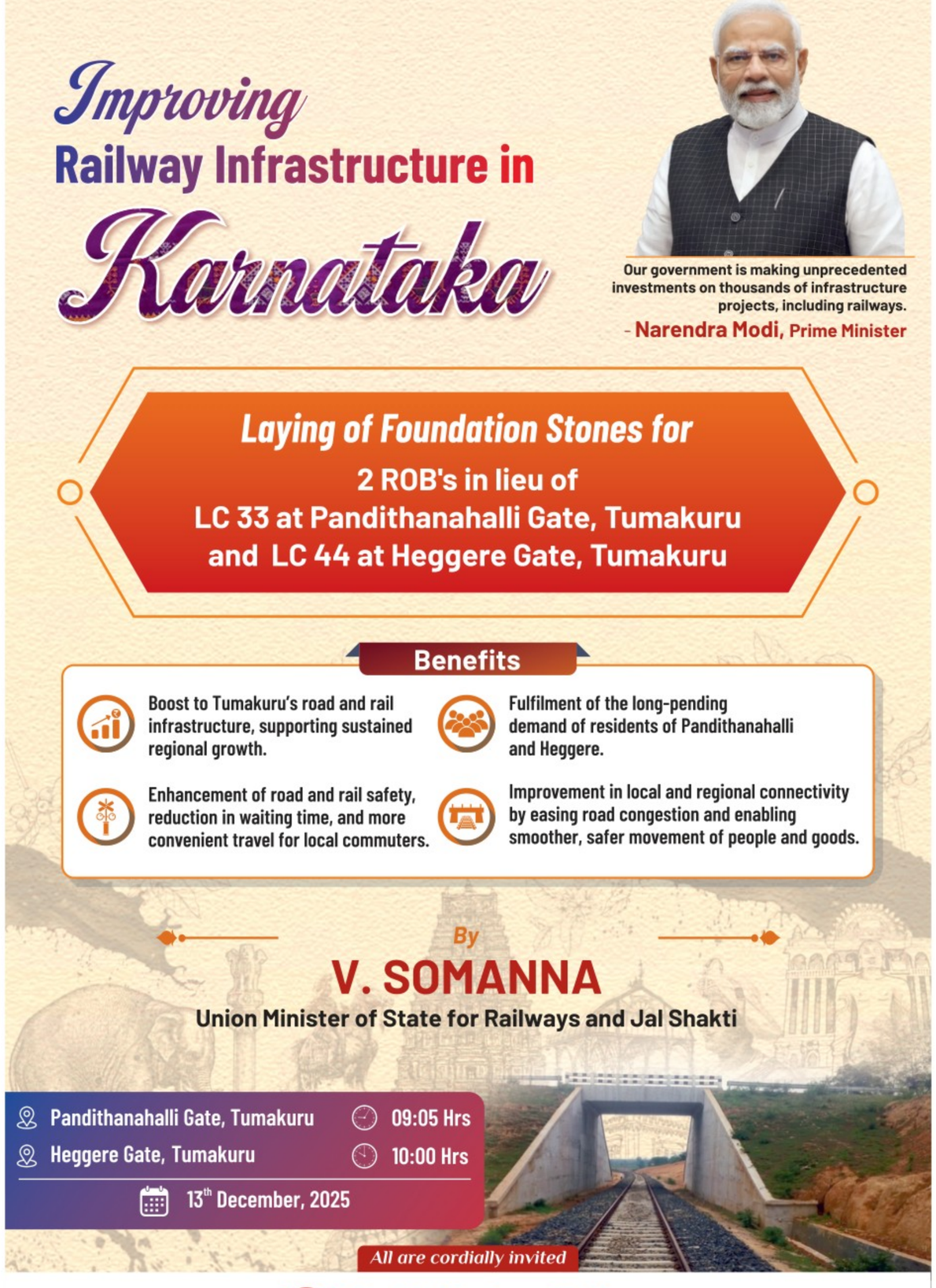
The fatal crash occurred at approximately 10.30 p.m. near the Gudemaranahalli toll booth in Magadi, in the Bengaluru South district. The victim, identified as Rajesh, 27, hailed from Belagumba village in Magadi taluk.

The Kudurun police, who have registered a case, said Rajesh worked at a private firm in Bengaluru. He was heading home on his two-wheeler when the vehicle was knocked down by an SUV proceeding from Magadi towards Bengaluru. Officers stated that the impact left Rajesh with grievous injuries, and he died on the spot.

A senior police officer told *The Hindu* that the SUV is registered in the name of R. Shashank. The SUV has been seized. "A case has been filed. We are investigating who was driving the vehicle at the time. We do not yet have clarity on the occupants of the car," the official said.

Mr. H.M. Revanna denied that his son was behind the wheel.

On December 12, he told reporters that Shashank was not driving the vehicle and asserted that their driver was at the wheel of the SUV at the time of the accident.



ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED

Regd. Office: 10-152/1, 4th Floor, Sri Sai Towers, Besides SIRIS company, Bandar road, Vijayawada-520007

NATIONAL SHORT TENDER NOTICE

PDS1/35/Sugar Tender/Feb. 2026 to April'2026 12-12-2025

BIDS ARE INVITED FROM ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR SUPPLY OF 21,900 MTs OF ISS GRADES-30/S-31 CANE SUGAR IN 1/2 KG PACKET FORM WITH SECONDARY PACKING IN 50 KG NEW POLYPROPYLENE (PP) BAGS UNDER AAY & PDS SCHEMES FOR THE MONTHS OF FEBRUARY' 2026 TO APRIL' 2026 (THREE MONTHS) TO ALL THE MLS POINTS OF (26) DISTRICTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH STATE.

All the interested Sugar Manufacturers/Traders in All Over India may visit **www.apscscl.in** & **www.neml.in** to view and download tender documents at free of cost.

Interested bidders need to register in portal as vendor with NCDEX e Markets Limited to participate in the tenders. Contact Tel: **9962059599** or **9032429420** or **9885549722** and Email: **askus@neml.in**

Last date for registration and completion of formalities for the e-auction shall be up to **22.12.2025** at **5.00 PM** and the tentative date of online e-auction through NeML platform would be **24.12.2025** from **11.00 AM** onwards.

Sd/- VC & Managing Director

Chanderi & Maheshwari Festival

13th to 28th Dec. 2025

Exclusive designer block print & traditional hand woven Chanderi, Maheshwari, Kosa Silk Sarees, Handloom Bed Covers in Batik, Bagh, Chemical Print, Dress Material, Dupatta etc.

Madhya Pradesh Govt. Emporium
Mrignayanee
Art from the heart

Venue: Chitrakala Parishath
Kumarakrupa Road, Bangalore-560001
Ph.: +91 73538 57787

- The Development Commissioner (Handloom), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
- Commissioner, Handloom and Handicrafts M.P. Govt
- Sant Ravidas M.P. Hastshilp Evam Hathkargha Vikas Nigam Ltd. (A Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, RAICHUR

Estate Officer, U.A.S. Raichur

No. EO/UASR/TN-190/2025-26 Dt:11.12.2025.

E -TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur as per the Rules of KTPP Act and Bid conditions of the undersigned officer has invited item wise tenders from registered Shamiyana Contractors, who have got DSC (Digital Signature Certificate) to the following works. The tenders have to be submitted through e-Procurement Portal only. (Website:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:- (1) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders:- 26-12-2025 Upto 16:00 hrs. **(2) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid**:- 27-12-2025 At 16:10 hrs. **(3) Date &Time for Opening of Financial Bid:-** 30-12-2025 At 11:00 hrs. For more details, please contract Ph. No. 08532 - 220640, and visit the link https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in for detailed tender notification. Also Contact helpdesk number: 080-25501216 & 080-25501227.

Sd/- Stores Purchase Officer
UAS, Raichur.

DIP/RCR/598/KSMCA/600/2025-26

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I KARNATAKA

Government of India Ministry of Finance
Department of Financial Services
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001.

DEMAND NOTICE

FORM NO.14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 AS AMENDED

RC/577/2024 OA NO. 783/2020

BANK OF BARODA
Versus
M/S INTEGRATED HEALING COLISEUM HOSPITAL PRIVATE LIMITED

(CH-1) Bank Of Baroda
HBR Layout Branch, Bengaluru, Karnataka -560043.
Applicant Bank/Certificate Holder
Versus

To,
(CD-1) M/s.integrated Healing Coliseum Hospital Private Limited Office No.4, BM-403, Behind Titan World 4th 'B' Main Road, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka -560043.
Also At:
MRR Sqaure, 2nd Floor, No.314, Chikkabommasandra Cross, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru, Karnataka -560064.
(CD-2) Sri.P.N. Gupta
Residing At: No.7603 PMC, Ananthapura Gate, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru, Karnataka -560064.
Also At:
No.4, BM-403 Behind Titan World, 4th 'B' Main Road, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka -560043.
(CD-3) Sri.Santhosh Kumar JHA
Residing At: No.114/1, Malleshpalya Main Road, Tippasandra Post, Bengaluru, Karnataka -560075.
Defendant/Certificate Debtors

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, **Debts Recovery Tribunal Bangalore (DRT 1) in OA/783/2020** an amount of **Rs 1,23,44,356.09** (Rupees One Crore Twenty Three Lakhs Forty Four Thousands Three Hundred Fifty Six And Paisa Nine Only) along with cost, expenses and future interest @11.45% p.a. Compound Interest Quarterly w.e.f. **10.03.2020** till realization and costs of **Rs.1,74,000-**(Rupees One Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Only) has become due against you (jointly and severally/Fully Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts and bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3.Your are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4.You are ordered to appear before the undersigned on **21.05.2025 at 10:30 am** for further proceedings
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **03.03.2025**

(Sanjiv Kumar)
Recovery Officer-1

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru

(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No: KREIS/EE-2/Tender-23/2025-26 Date: 12-12-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for **Construction of (SC) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Govt. Pre-Metric Boys Hostel at Raybhag, Belagavi District, Drilling of Borewells, Electrical and Civil Repair works in the jurisdiction of KREIS (Tender Indent No. 665/call-3, 779, 724, 747, 727, 524, 596, 523, 572, 559, 558, 557, 556, 555, 426/call-2, 369/call-5, 420/call-2, 469/call-2, 467/call-2, 536/call-2 and 795/call-2)** through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **12.12.2025.** The last date for receipt of tenders is **29.12.2025 and 12.01.2026 respectively.** The details may be viewed at above website.

Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-Procurement portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-2
KREIS

DIPR/CP/YC/4411/2025-26

KERALA STATE BEVERAGES (M&M) CORPORATION LIMITED

(A GOVERNMENT OF KERALA UNDERTAKING)
BEVCO TOWER, PALAYAM,VIKAS BHAVAN PO, TRIVANDRUM-695 033
Phone: 0471-2790100

E-TENDER ADVERTISEMENT

E-Tenders are invited for the **supply of Liquor** under Rate Contract to our warehouses all over Kerala.

Last date of submission of bids is **31.12.2025, 05.00 PM**

For more details visit **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.

E-Tender IDs: 2025_KSBC_821704_1, 2025_KSBC_821705_1, 2025_KSBC_821706_1, 2025_KSBC_821686_1, 2025_KSBC_821697_1

S/d Managing Director

UNION BANK OF INDIA

(A Government of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : 2254, Kousalya, 3rd Floor, Vinoba Road, Mysuru-570005

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured Creditor) will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

Ramanagara E-CB, Branch, #316, Ijoor, Near Bus Stand, Ramanagara – 571511
Contact No: - 9446252388, Mail Id: ubin0910872@unionbankofindia.bank.in

Name And Address Of The Borrower, Co-applicant And Guarantor:
1) M/s. S P R Silks, Proprietor Sadiq Pasha, 1st Cross, Near Noorani Mosque, Yarab Nagar, Ramanagara - 571511.
2) Mr. Ziaulla, S/o Shafiulla, No – 3653, Mehaboob Nagar, Ramanagara. -571511
Amount due : Rs. 92,04,585-00 as on 30-11-2025 with further interest, cost & expenses
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold : All The Prat And Parcel Of Residential House In The Name Of **Sadik Pasha,** Property Bearing No. 21/4, New No.789/21/4, Situated At Ward No.24/4, Kothipura Extension, Ramanagara, **Measuring East-West: 95 Feet, North-South: 40 Feet Total 3800 Square feet. Bounded On East:** Land Of Mukthar Pasha, **West:** Land Of Mukthar Pasha, **North:** Road, **South:** Government Halla.

Reserve Price :
Rs. 57,44,156-00 (Rupees Fifty Seven lakhs Forty Four Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Six Only)
Earnest Money to Be Deposited :
Rs. 5,74,416-00 (Rupees Five Lakhs Seventy four Thousand Four Hundred and Sixteen Only)

Date and time of E-Auction : Date: 30-12-2025 From 12.00 pm to 5.00 PM (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last date for submission of EMD : On or before the commencement of e-Auction.
E-auction website- https://baanknet.com

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale and registration and login and bidding rules visit : please refer to the link provided : https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx and www.unionbankofindia.co.in

Date : 13-12-2025
Place : Mysuru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India.

KARNATAKA STATE POLICE HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
59, Richmond road, (Gen K.S. Thimmaiah Road)
Bengaluru-25. Ph : 080 - 25584102 / 2559 4893
Website: www.ksphc.org **e mail :** eecontractksphc@gmail.com,

No. EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/TND/05/2025-26/277 Date: 11.12.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KSPH & IDCL invites online tender as per KTPP 2000 Act & as per Standard Tender Document through KPPP **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the below work.

1. **Construction of Rural Police Station (Grade-4) at Hospete in Vijayanagar District.**
2. **Repairs and Renovation work for the exiting 12 PC (Block-B) Quarters at Karkala in Udupi District.**

Interested eligible Contractors may participate in the tendering process. The details such as Tender fee, EMD, Tender documents etc., are available on KPPP **from 15.12.2025 onwards.** "KSPH & IDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders without assigning any reasons."

Note: Henceforth any changes / modifications in the tender will be updated only on KPPP.

Sd/- Executive Engineer – Contracts

DIPR/CP/RO4410/AAPL/2025-26

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, (PMRDA)

Expression of Interest (EOI)

For

Development of Pune International Exhibition and Convention Centre (PIECC) on Public Private Partnership (PPP) at Pune, Maharashtra, India.

E-Tender Notice No. 48 for FY 2025-26

The Pune Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (PMRDA) intends to develop the Pune International Exhibition & Convention Centre (PIECC), which is going to be India's largest exhibition & convention centre facility, on a land admeasuring area 228.5 Acres, at Pune, Maharashtra, India.

PMRDA intends to develop PIECC on Public Private Partnership route. PMRDA has issued this EOI to invite interested firms nationally/ Internationally to share their views and strategies for developing, Investing and operating & maintaining the PIECC. Post EOI, PMRDA will issue a Request for Proposal for selection of successful Bidder. Interested Bidders can download the EOI document from the website https://mahatenders.gov.in. Bidders may seek clarification, if any, arising from the EOI and should submit their queries on the email celpmrda@gmail.com latest by 22/12/2025.

The last date of submission of details as required in EOI will be 21/01/2026 by 17.00 email hours. The Bidders may contact Chief Engineer, PMRDA on celpmrda@gmail. Com for any further information/clarifications.

SD/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Div-1)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune

New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044
Email: pune-metroline3@pmrda.gov.in

E-Tender Notice No. 35 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of **"Appointment of Contractor for Supply of Machinery, Manpower for demolishing the illegal structures in PMRDA, Pune region".**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: **www.mahatenders.gov.in** from 22/12/2025 at 15.00 Hrs. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 15/01/2026 upto 15.00 Hrs. The changes if any can be available on **www.mahatenders.gov.in.**

SD/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune

E-Tender Notice No. 45 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites proposals through e-tendering for the works in PMRDA Jurisdiction.

The Tender document for each work can be downloaded as per schedule below from the website: www.mahatenders.gov.in The changes if any can be available on www.mahatenders.gov.in.

Sr. no.	Name of works	Period of downloading Tender Document	Last date of submission
1.	Construction of Concrete Road from Talegaon Dhamdhere- Mazak India Company -L&T Phata -Pimple Jagtap to Karandi Phata road including 10 years maintenance. Tal Shirur, Dist. Pune	17/12/2025 11:00 Hrs. To 31/12/2025 17:00 Hrs	31/12/2025 17:00 Hrs
2.	Construction of Concrete Road Sanaswadi to Pimple Jagtap V.R. 111 and V.R. 283 including 10 years maintenance in PMR Region Tal. Shirur Dist. Pune	17/12/2025 11:00 Hrs. To 31/12/2025 17:00 Hrs	31/12/2025 17:00 Hrs
3.	Maintenance of roads in PMRDA Region Dist.- Pune	18/12/2025 11:00 Hrs. To 25/12/2025 17:00 Hrs	25/12/2025 17:00 Hrs

Tender Notice can also be seen on PMRDA website.

-sd-
Chief Engineer, I/c.
Engineering Division I
PMRDA, Pune

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune

New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044
Email: pune-metroline3@pmrda.gov.in

E-Tender Notice No. 44 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of **"Beautification and Landscaping Works at District Court Campus, Pune"**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: www.mahatenders.gov.in from 23/12/2025 at 15.00 Hrs. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 16/01/2026 upto 15.00 Hrs. The changes if any can be available on www.mahatenders.gov.in.

SD/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division 2nd Floor, BMP Complex, Dhanavantri Road, Bengaluru-560009.

No. EE/GNR/TEND/KPPP/007/2025-26 Date: 12-12-2025

CORRIGENDUM-1

Sub: Postponement of Tender.

Ref: Tender Notification No. EE/GNR/KPPP/007/25-26, Date: 04.12.2025.

Due to technical reasons the above tender has been Postponed.

(1) Last date & time for receipt of tenders : **26.12.2025 upto 4.30 pm.**
(2) Opening of Tenders: **29.12.2025 at 12.30 pm. (3)** Validity of tender: **28 days from the date of opening of tender.**

All other conditions remain same.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Gandhinagar Division, BCCC

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

SHIVA HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT

No. KPCL/2025-26/AUCTION 119, dtd: 09.12.2025, Shimsha HES-Disposal of Cable Scrap on "As is where is Basis". EMD: **Rs. 55,244/-.** Last date for submission of tenders: **08.01.2026 up to 11.00 Hrs.** Further information can be had from **Executive Engineer(EM&O) Shiva,** KPCL, Shivasamudram Malavalli Taluk, Mandya District, Mob: 9448290735.

GHATAPRABHA DAM POWER HOUSE

No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK-INDENT3749, Dt: 02.12.2025. Supply and replacement of Turbine Shaft seals and cooling water pipe line systems of Unit-1 at GDPH. Last date & time for submission of tenders: **22.12.2025 up to 17.05 Hrs.** Further information can be had from **Executive Engineer (O&M)GDPH,** KPCL, Hidkal Dam-591107, M: 9480381347, e-mail: eeegdphkpcl@gmail.com, Website: kpcl.karnataka.gov.in

VARAHI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT

(1) KPCL/2025-26/IND2102/CALL-3, dtd: 08.12.2025. Supply of Measuring instruments and electrical appliances to VHEP. EMD: **Rs. 6,597/-. (2)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2216, dtd: 02.12.2025. Supply of Actuator, Power Contactor, Soft starter and other spares to VHEP. EMD: **Rs. 14,058/-.** Last date for receipt of tender: for Sl.No (1) **23.12.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs**. & for Sl.No (2) **17.12.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs**. Further information can be had from **Executive Engineer(MSP)H,** VHEP, KPCL, Hosangadi-576282, Kundapura (T), Udupi (D), Karnataka, **M: 9448182618.**

BHADRA GENERATING STATION

No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3477/Call-2 dtd: 09.12.2025. Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Carbon Brush holders for Rotor Slip Rings of RB#1, RB#2, RBK#1, RBK#2 and LB Unit at BGS. EMD: **Rs. 10,875/-.** Last date & time for submission of tender: **18.12.2025 up to 16.30 Hrs.** Further information can be had from **Executive Engineer (O&M)Bhadra,** KPCL, B.R. Projects-577115, Bhadravathi Tq., Shivamogga Dist.

BALLARI CITY CORPORATION, BALLARI

No: BCC/Eng/S.T.N./2025-26 Date:10.12.2025

Tender Notification (KPPP)

The Commissioner Ballari City Corporation, Ballari invites Tender as per the KTPP Act 1999-2000 through KPPP portal for year 2025-26 15th Finance untied grant for Indent No. 1) Package-26: DMA/2025-26/RD/ WORK_INDENT 42531(SC)/ Call-3 eligible contractors with having valid PWD contractor licence can participate in the tender, the tender documents can be downloaded in the KPP Portal till 16.12.2025 on or before 17.30 Hours. Date of Opening of Technical Bid is on 18.12.2025 at 10.30 Hours. Date of Opening of Financial Bid is on 20.12.2025 at 10.30 Hours. Transaction fee & EMD should be remitted in the KPPP Portal, Government of Karnataka: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For any further details contact this office in working hours.

Sd/- Commissioner,
Ballari City Corporation, Ballari.

DIPR/Ballari/783/KSMCA/2025-26

DAVANAGERE SMART CITY LIMITED, DAVANAGERE-577006

No: DSCL/EE-1/CR-224/2018-19/536 Date: 12-12-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Through Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only

As per Karnataka Transparency in the Public Procurement Act-1999-2000 (Amendment) Law of Act-2000 and as per the relevent Standard Tender Documents,The undersigned invites tenders in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the detailed below. The tenderer may submit tenders for works given in the table through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of the Government of Karnataka (https:\\kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Further details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned or by contacting e-procurement helpline Telephone No. +91 80 46010000, +91 80 68948777

KPPP Indent No. DSCL/2025-26/SE0004 Name of the Work :- Revenue Collection by Advertising and maintenance for 1 years and extendable up to 5 years for existing Digital Display Boards at various places in Davanagere City Corporation Limits.
"EMD (Rs in Lakhs)":- 0.39 Tender Document:- KC-1
Note : Any Change of date and other Information will be notified only in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal, will not be notified in any paper notifications and Tender documents can be downloaded in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from dated:15-12-2025
Last date & time for tender queries : 22-12-2025 hrs : 17.30
Last date & time for submission of Tender:24-12-2025 hrs : 16.00
Date & time of opening Technical bids : 26-12-2025 hrs : 11:00

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Davanagere Smart City Ltd., Davanagere.
Sd/- Managing Director and CEO Davanagere Smart City Ltd., Davanagere.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/000/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ/2025–26

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune

E-Tender Notice No. 47 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites proposals through e-tendering for the works in PMRDA Jurisdiction.

The Tender document for each work can be downloaded as per schedule below from the website: www.mahatenders.gov.in The changes if any can be available on www.mahatenders.gov.in.

Sr. no.	Name of works	Period of downloading Tender Document	Last date of submission
1.	Construction of Concrete Road Kondhapuri Kasari to Talegaon Dhamdhere road including 10 years maintenance. Tal Shirur, Dist. Pune	30/12/2025 11:00 Hrs. To 19/01/2026 17:00 Hrs	19/01/2026 17:00 Hrs
2.	Construction of Concrete Road Kasari Phata Wabalewadi - Jategaon Bk. Jategaon Kd. Upto NH-548D including 10 years maintenance in PMR Region Tal. Shirur Dist. Pune	30/12/2025 11:00 Hrs. To 19/01/2026 17:00 Hrs	19/01/2026 17:00 Hrs
3.	Construction of Bridge with approaches on Vel river, Talegaon Dhamdhere, Tal. Shirur Dist. Pune	30/12/2025 11:00 Hrs. To 13/01/2026 17:00 Hrs	13/01/2026 17:00 Hrs

Tender Notice can also be seen on PMRDA website.

-sd-
Chief Engineer, I/c.
Engineering Division I
PMRDA, Pune

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Joint Commissioner Zone-1, Mayohall, Mayohall Premises, Bengaluru-560 001.

No: BCCC/JC-1/TEND/01/2025-26 Date: 11-12-2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only) The Joint Commissioner (Zone-1), BCCC, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BCCC invites tenders from eligible Contractors firm registered in Bengaluru central city corporation or equivalent registration with Labour Department or any State Government Organizations for the work as detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Providing Data Entry Operators to Offices under the the Joint Commissioner Zone 1, Mayohall, Residency Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. (to be deployed to the BCCC offices spread across) (No of Data Entry Operators required-95) **Estimated Amount (Non-Refundable Inclusive of Taxes): ₹. 2,97,46,476/-, EMD: ₹. 6,00,000/-**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the kppp portal of the Government of Karnataka from **15-12-2025** (2) Tenders must be submitted online through kpp portal on or before **30-12-2025** upto **4:00** pm (3) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **22-12-2025** at **4:00** pm in the office of the Joint Commissioner-1, BCCC, Residency Road, Mayohall Premises Bengaluru. (4) Technical Bids will be opened on **03-01-2026** at **4:00** pm.

Sd/- Joint Commissioner Zone-1
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Ltd.,

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
KNNL. M.L.B.C.C.Division No.2. Naviluteertha-591116
TQ. Saundatti. Dist Belagavi.
Dn. e-mail: eemlbcnth@gmail.com Ph: - 08330-224500

No.MLBCC-2/DB/4701 KTR HRN-3/ E-tender/ 2025-26/1889, 1890 & 1891, Dated : 09-12-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through K.P.P. Portal system only) (Two cover system)

Electronic percentage tender through e-procurement platform is invited by the **Executive Engineer, KNNL, MLBCC Division No.2, Navilutheertha,** on behalf of **M.D., KNNL Bangalore** for taking up the following works from the Eligible contractors registered under KPWD The tenderers are required to apply in two cover system (as per KTTP act 2000)

Estimated amount Rs.50.00 to 300.00 Lakhs.
For Work Indent Numbers. 3283, 3284 & 3591

1) Pre Bid Meeting on 15-12-2025 at 11.00 AM 2) Last date of tender receipt : 20-12-2025 up to 4.00 PM. 3) Cover –I, Technical Bid will be opened on 22-12-2025 after 11.00 AM 4) Cover–II, Financial Bid will be opened on 23-12-2025 after 11.00 AM.

Further information about electronic tendering can be had from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and can be had from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- (V.K. Mudigoudar)
Executive Engineer(I/C),
KNNL, MLBCC.Dn. no.2 Naviluteertha.

DIPR/Belagavi/ 1480 /Manipal/2025-26

PROPERTYPLUS

HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS | THE HINDU

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Rethinking scale in India's healthcare

Why micro-hospitals are emerging as the fastest, most efficient path to equitable care

Bakul Chandra

India's healthcare story is changing fast, not by building large tertiary hospitals, but by rethinking scale – with micro-hospitals emerging as a game-changer for Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. These compact, high-efficiency healthcare facilities are designed to provide quality medical services to underserved populations, bridging the gap between rural and urban healthcare.

Micro-hospitals are small-scale, technologically advanced healthcare facilities that offer a range of medical services, including emergency care, diagnostics, specialised treatments, and short-stay procedures. They typically have 10-50 beds, making them ideal for smaller cities and towns where larger hospitals are not feasible.

Tier-2 and Tier-3 towns face three linked problems: distance from advanced care, underused primary clinics, and rising disease burdens requiring timely intervention. Micro-hospitals address all three. They shorten the time-to-care for cardiac events, accidents, and obstetric complications, they deliver diagnostics and short procedures locally, and they act as referral hubs that reduce pressure on metro centres. Pragmatically, their smaller footprint allows faster deployment and far smaller upfront capital, which is crucial for private investors and public health programmes. Lower operational costs enable more affordable healthcare services.

They prioritise a compact patient journey that moves seamlessly from ambulance entry and triage to diagnostics – including point-of-care imaging and lab services – followed by observation or short-stay beds and a streamlined OR/DP (day procedure) suite.

Digital diagnostics, telemedicine, and AI triage tools let a small onsite team deliver outsized care. A reliable tele-link to a tertiary centre transforms a 20-bed micro-hospital into an extension of a larger network: specialists can supervise critical procedures remotely, radiology reads can be instant, and capacity planning becomes data-driven.

Capital costs per bed for micro-hospitals are materially lower than tertiary hospitals, and operating costs benefit from smaller, more efficient systems. Public-private partnerships, outcome-based contracts, and blended financing (grant plus low-interest debt) can bridge early viability gaps.

Crucially, governments should support the model through regulatory clarity and by integrating micro-hospitals into referral and insurance ecosystems.

The writer is a founding partner and mentor at Renascent Consultants.

THE HINDU
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SOUKYA ROAD
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CREDAI BENGALURU

Rural service: Karnataka updates procedures for medical registration

Candidates completing MBBS, postgraduate, or super-specialty degrees in the State are not eligible for permanent registration under various legislations until they complete the mandatory service

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Health Department has issued norms on granting temporary registration, provisional degree certificates (PDCs), and course completion certificates to medical graduates required to undergo compulsory government service under the Karnataka Compulsory Service by Candidates Completed Medical Courses Act, 2012.

An official communication in this regard has been sent to the Karnataka Medical Council, the Director of Medical Education, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, and other universities in the State.

Permanent registration will be accorded only after candidates obtain an exemption or discharge from the compulsory service requirement, or when the department issues a NOC for permanent registration.. FILE PHOTO

The circular dated December 10, issued by the Principal Secretary (Health), stated that candidates completing MBBS, postgraduate, or super-specialty degrees in Karnataka are not eligible for permanent registration under the Karnataka Medical Registration Act, 1961, or the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, until they complete the mandatory service. The department noted that these provisions override Central and State medical registration laws.

Temporary registration

However, the circular made it clear that such candidates are eligible for temporary registration from the KMC until they complete the compulsory service period. The KMC has been asked to grant temporary registration accordingly.

Permanent registration will be accorded only after candidates obtain an exemption or discharge from the compulsory service requirement, or when the department issues a no-objection certificate (NOC) for permanent registration. For out-of-State candidates, an affidavit undertaking to serve when called upon will be required for issuance of the NOC.

The department also clarified that universities may issue Provisional Degree Certificates without requiring clearance from the Health and Family Welfare Department. However, the issuance of final degree certificates will continue to be governed by the provisions of the 2012 Act. Similarly, colleges may issue Course Completion Certificates without seeking Departmental approval, the circular added.

Court disposes of plea on account freezing issue in cybercrime cases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking note that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is in the process of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), the High Court of Karnataka on Thursday disposed of a PIL petition, which has sought direction for creation of a uniform guideline/SOP for issuance of bank account freeze orders, debit restrictions and lien markings in cybercrime cases.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha disposed of the petition, filed by Pavan Vijay Sharma of Bengaluru.

Arbitrary freezing

The petitioner had complained about widespread systematic and recurring problems of 'arbitrary' freezing of bank accounts and multiple lien marking imposed by various investigating agencies in cyber fraud investigation, causing severe hardship to bank account holders due to lack of methods to distinguish victims, accused persons and third parties.

During the hearing, Deputy Solicitor General of India Shanti Bushan H. told the Court that the MHA has already circulated a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for National Cyber Reporting Platform (NCRP)-Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS), Custody, Restoration of Money and Redressal Grievance among the State governments and other stakeholders. The Bench was also informed that the Ministry would finalise the SOP after completion of consultation process with the stakeholders.

The petitioner had also sought a direction from the court to the authorities to ensure that no bank account is frozen or subjected to lien without prior verification of the account holder's involvement in the alleged offence, recording of reasons for such action, and mandatory service of notice/intimation to the account holder within a reasonable time.

However, the Bench said that no order is required to be passed in the petition as process is already under way to prepare a SOP. Meanwhile, the Bench clarified that disposal of the petition would not come in the way of any individuals or entities from seeking remedies on frozen accounts as per the law.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
COMMISSIONERATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED
No.05, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI-600 005.

Roc.No. 5128 /A&A/RIGHTS/2025 **TENDER NOTICE** Date: 12.12.2025

Proposals are invited from the eligible and qualified audit agencies to Conduct internal audit of the project accounts, review financial management systems, assess compliance with financial and procurement guidelines, and report on the adequacy of internal controls for a period of 2 years through the e-procurement portal. The complete details are available on the department website-**www.scd.tn.gov.in** as well as on the tender website-**tntenders.gov.in.**

Proposals are to be uploaded through the e-procurement portal at **http://tntenders.gov.in**

Project Director – TN RIGHTS / Commissioner for Welfare the Differently Abled, Chennai-600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

DIPR/ 6617 /TENDER/2025

Project Director – RIGHTS / Commissioner for Welfare of the Differently Abled

Odisha Police Office of the D.G & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Cuttack
Tel.:0671-2304001, Website :www.odishapolice.gov.in, RFP No: 27-RFP-IT Expert, Cyber Forensic Expert and Finance and Account Analyst for CC and EO PSs-2025-2026

Date: 12.12.2025 Email:cyberwing.cidcb@odishapolice.gov.in

Online Bids through e-Tender Portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in are invited from the eligible bidders for Request for Proposal (RFP) of Selection of Agency for providing IT Expert, Cyber Forensic Expert and Finance & Account Analyst for CC & EO PSs. during the current financial year, 2025-26 as per the particulars mentioned below.

Events	Date
RFP Issue Date	12.12.2025
Deadline for Submission of Pre-Proposal/ Pre-Bid Queries	16.12.2025
Date & Time of Pre-Bid meeting	Date & Time of Pre-Bid meeting Queries to be submit on cyberwing.cidcb@odishapolice.gov.in by 16.12.2025 by 15.00 hours. A pre-bid meeting will be scheduled based on the bidders' queries. The pre-bid meeting date, time and link will be intimated accordingly.
RFP Submission Due Date and time	29.12.2025
Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	30.12.2025
Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bids	To be informed technically qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: https://tendersodisha.gov.in The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

D-280 OIPR-12029/11/0121/2526

Sd/- A.I.G. of Police (Provisioning), Odisha, Cuttack. (Tender Calling Authority)

सेन्टर फॉर मेटिरियल्स फॉर इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स टेक्नोलाजी (सी-मेट)
CENTRE FOR MATERIALS FOR ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY (C-MET)
(A Scientific Society, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India)
IDA PHASE - III, CHERLAPALLY, HCL (PO), HYDERABAD-500051, Telangana State, INDIA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 12.12.2025

Sealed Tenders are invited under **Two Bid System** (Part I - TECHNICAL BID & Part II - PRICE BID) at C-MET, Hyderabad for the following items:

Sl.No.	Name of the Item	Tender Reference No.
1	**1000 Kg Waste Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs)**	**CMET/211/2025-C-MET/3158605/**

Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : 05.01.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs IST

For Details and Tender Document, please visit our website **http://www.cmet.gov.in** & also CPPP portal.

Sd/-
CENTRE HEAD

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Sri.M.R.Nagaraju s/o Late M.D.Rajashekar Aradhya** to bring the notice of the general public that the Original registered Absoult Sale deed doc.No.HSR-1-02659/2015-16 of Book-I, Stored in CD No.HSRD188, Dated.17.02.2016, registered in the sub-registrar, Hesaraghatta, Bangalore, is missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **No.101,** V.P.Khatha No.127, situated at **Mathkuru Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** now comes under the Limits of Shivakote Gramapanchayathi, Measuring **E-W : 32 ½ ft,** & **N-S : 22-0 ft,** and bounded on:
East by : House of Bajikhan, **West by :** House of Virupaksha, **North by :** Vacant property of Katha No.102, **South by :** Property of Ashwathamma.

Item No.2
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **No.102,** V.P.Khatha No.128, situated at **Mathkuru Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** now comes under the Limits of Shivakote Gramapanchayathi, Measuring **E-W : 9-00 ft,** & **N-S : 9-00 ft,** total **81 Sq.feet,** and bounded on:
East by : House of Bajikhan, **West by :** House of Virupaksha, **North by :** Vacant property of M.V.Siddalingappa, **South by :** Property No.101.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

RESEARCH DESIGNS & STANDARDS ORGANISATION, LUCKNOW

E-Tender Notice No. 03255019/178

Executive Director/Stores on behalf of President of India invites E-Open Tender (Double Bid System) by this office as follows-

SN	Tender No.	Brief Description	QTY.	Tender Closing Date/Opening of Tender
1	2	3	4	5
1	**03255019**	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING AND TRAINING OF HIGH INERTIA AND HIGH SPEED BRAKE DYNAMOMETER AS PER ATTACHED SPECIFICATION.	**01 Set**	**09/01/2026 at 13:30 (Friday)**
		ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (AMC) CHARGES OF ITEM NO. 01 [**Warranty Period:** 24 Months after the date of delivery, **AMC Period:** 5 Years]	**01 No.**	

For complete details of tender conditions and Corrigendum issued in tender, if any. Please visit IREPS website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Executive Director/Stores/RDSO/Lucknow

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

Vishweswarapuram Branch
P B No 490. 550. Diagonal Road
Vishweswarapuram, Bengaluru
E-mail:cb414@canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) Section 13(4)

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Canara Bank **Vishweswarapuram Branch**, under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **30.09.2023** calling upon the Borrower **(1)Sri Maruthi Public School**, Hosapete Road, Magadi, Magadi Taluk Ramanagara Dist, Magadi Taluk, DodBallapura,Bangalore Rural, Karnataka-562120 **2)Mr. Gangaraju H H,** Trustee And Guarantor S/o Honnaiah C/o Sri Venkateshwara ITI.Halevoor Road, Tumakuru, kunigal, Tumkur Karnataka-572123 **3)Mrs. Varalakshmamma KT** Trustee And Guarantor W/o Gangaraju, #16 NES Layout, Magadi Taluk, Dodballapur, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka 56210. **4)Mr. Roopesh G** (Guarantor)S/o Gangaraju H H, Honnegowdana Doddi ,Huliyurudurga Hobli, Kunigal Rural, Tumkur, Karnataka 572123 **5)Mr. Shivanna H** (Guarantor) S/o Honnaiah, Honnegowdanadoddi, Tavarekere Post, Huliyurdurga Hobali, Kunigal Taluk, Thavarekere, Tumakuru, Tavarekere, Karnataka-572123 **6)Mr. Lokesh G** (Guarantor) S/o Gangaraju H, No 16 New Extn Magadi Magadi To Ramanagar Dist, Magadi, DodBallapur, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka 562120 to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice, being **Rs. 7,51,90,780.06 (Rupees Seven Crore Fifty One Lakhs Ninty Thousand Seven Hundread Eighty And Six paisa Only)** within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002, on this **10th day of December of the year 2025.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Canara Bank, Visweswarapuram Branch** for an amount of **7,70,71,442.06 (Rupees Seven Crore Seventy Lakhs Seventy One Thousand Four Hundread Fourty Two and Paisa Six Only)** and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of Immovable Property:

Name of Title holder: Mr H H Gangaraju Leased to M/s Maruthi Education Trust

(1) All that piece and parcel of land located at Sy. No. 2/4(old Sy. No 2/1) to an extent of 0.06, bounded by: East: Land of applicant (La hi No.9), West: Govt Road (La hi 2), North: Remaining Land (blank),South: Land of Narasimha Murthy (La Sa No. 1)

All that piece and parcel of land located at Sy. No 9/2 to an extent of 1-15.08, bounded by: East: Land of Gowramma w/o Late Narayanappa, West: Land of Krishnappa, North: Land of Gangamma w/o Gangaraju, South: Land of Narasimha Murthy

All that piece and parcel of land located at Sy. No. 9/3 to an extent of 1-05.08 bounded by:East: Land of Jayamma, West: Land of applicant, North: Land of Gangaraju, South: Land of Narasimha Murthy totally measuring 2Acres 27Guntas with new KHATHA No.1/1 &Property No. 152900302500920002 Located at Somakkana Mutt Village, Kasaba Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagaram Dist. Property bounded by:East: Land of applicant Gangarau H H, West: Govt Road and Land of Krishnappa, North: Land of Gangamma W/o Gangaraju, South: Land of Narasimha Murthy

Name of Title holder:H H Gangaraju S/o Honnaiah

2)All that piece and parcel of land extend of 4800Sq Ft with Khatha No368/3876/4330 (14*40)369/3877/4331(30*40),370/3878/4332(16*40),375/3881/4335/1(10*40),375/3882/4336(30*40),376/388/4337(20*40), PID no. 22-12-23 Situated at NES Extention Ward No.2, Magadi Town, Ramnagara District, measuring East to West 18.292682 meters and North to South 24.390243 meters. Property bounded by: East: Site of Jayamma, West: Site of KT Varalakshmamma, North: Road, South: Road

Name of Title holder:Smt Venkatalakshmamma

3)All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No. 16, PID No. 17-48-16, formed out of Sy. No. 133/1 of Saneguruvanahalli, situated at 2nd Main, Vinayakanagar, Vrushabhavatinagar, within the jurisdiction of ward no 102 Bengaluru, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet, totally measuring to an extent of 24005qft, together with a building thereon and bounded on:East by: Road, West by: Property belongs to Smt N. Venkatalakshmamma, North by: Road, South by: Property belongs to Sri. Cheluvaraj and Mahadevaiah.

Date : 10.12.2025
Place : Bangalore

Sd/-Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

भारतीय खाद्य निगम **FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA**
REGIONAL OFFICE : No. 10, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th 'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU - 560041

No. RO KA-32.0011.0/32/2025-CON-RO KA
Date: 11.12.2025

ई–निविदा सूचना / e-Tender Notice

जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से "दो बोली प्रणाली" के तहत, दो वर्षों के लिए नियमित **पीडब्ल्यूएस बेलगावी और आरएच/जीएस साम्ब्रे में हैंडलिंग** और परिवहन अनुबंध के लिए ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। बोली **19.12.2025 को 5:00 बजे** तक ऑनलाइन जमा की जानी है।

जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से "दो बोली प्रणाली" के तहत, दो वर्षों के लिए नियमित **एफएसडी विजयपुरा और आरएच/जीएस अलियाबाद** में हैंडलिंग और परिवहन अनुबंध के लिए ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। बोली **20.12.2025 को 5:00 बजे** तक ऑनलाइन जमा की जानी है।

एनआईटी और निविदा प्रपत्र **"www.fci.gov.in"** और **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर उपलब्ध हैं। पंजीकरण, प्रशिक्षण और बोलियों को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए, निविदाकारोंको **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर देखने का अनुरोध किया जाता है।

Online Tenders for **HTC at PWS Belagavi&RH/GS Sambre** for two years is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. Bid should be submitted online within **5:00 PM on 19.12.2025.**

Online Tenders for **HTC at FSD Vijayapura & RH/GS Aliyabad** for two years is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. Bid should be submitted online within **5:00 PM on 20.12.2025.**

NIT and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in"** & **"https://gem.gov.in"**.For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit **https://gem.gov.in.**

महाप्रबंधक (कर्नाटक)
GENERAL MANAGER (Karnataka)

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-mail:- serw_ctc@yahoo.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK

No:-Tender Online RWC -27/2025, Letter No.:- Date :

e - Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Road & Building works.
2. Class of Contractor
c) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crore & upto Rs.50.00 Crore : Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
d) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crore & upto Rs.20.00 Crore : A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
c) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 Lakh & upto Rs.3.00 Crore : B Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
3. Time for Completion : As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.	Tender Online RWC - 27/25	15.12.2025 at 11.30 A.M.	05.01.2026 up to 05.00 P.M	05.01.2026 up to 02.00 P.M	06.01.2026 at 11.30 A.M	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** .

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.

O-1733: OIPR-25097/11/0038/2526

Govt. of Jharkhand
Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board
Science & Technology Campus, Sirkha Toli, Namkum-Tupudana Road, Namkum, Ranchi – 834010
Website : https://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in • e-mail : jceceboard@gmail.com

Advt. No. :–JCECEB/28/25-156 ,Ranchi/Dated: 12/12/2025

Indicative information regarding Revised Merit List preparation for Special Round Counselling for admission in vacant seats in M.B.B.S., B.D.S. & B.H.M.S. courses

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

On receiving multiple applications from various regions from non-registered candidates for the Special Round Counselling, the Board will again invite online applications from eligible and interested candidates who had not registered earlier, up to the notified date, at the All India level, based on the All India Merit List. The Board will subsequently prepare a revised Merit List and forward it to the concerned Colleges/Universities for admission.

Detailed information in this regard has been uploaded under "Important Notice" column at Board's website http://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in.

PR 368445 (Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board) 25-26 (D)

Sd/-
(Megha Bhardwaj, I.A.S.)
Controller of Examination

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Smt.Thanuja Velunathan D/o Sri.V.Velunathan, R/a No.99, 3rd Cross, Vivek Nagar Geetha Road Extension, Robertsonpet PO, KGF-563122 have changed my Minor Son's name from Rayhan Tajuddin to Ritwik Reyansh vide affidavit dt: 20.04.2021 sworn before Notary N.L.Chandrappa, KGF. Henceforth he shall be called as Ritwik Reyansh only.

I, Venkata Surya Prakash S/O, Ayyagari Satyanarayana Murty R/o E503, Shriram Suhaana Apts, Doddaballapur Main Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560064 Karnataka have changed my name to Ayyagari Venkata Surya Prakash.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of National Farmers Party. The office of the party is located at Building No. 625, KCPMC Ltd. Building, Mannarkayam, Kanjirappally P.O, Kanjirappally - 686507, Kerala. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951- Names/address of the office-bearers of the Party are as follows:

President/ Chairman :
George J Mathew, 50,
Pottamkulam, 6 Puthenchantha,
Mundakkayam Panchayath,
Kottayam District, Kerala

General Secretary/Secretary :
PM Mathew, 8/489,
Parapurathu paluvelil House,
Kaduthuruthi, Kottayam District, Kerala

Treasurer :
Joseph Micheal, Kallivayalil
House, Kuttikkanam P.O,
Peerumadu, Idukki District, Kerala

If any one has any objection to the registration of National Farmers Party they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi 110001- Email-Id: election@eci.gov.in within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

All depts. to work in close coordination for New Years' celebrations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru South City Corporation held a review meeting for preparations for New Year's Eve (NYE) celebrations on Friday.

Additional Commissioner Naveen Kumar Raju directed that all departments should work in close tandem with the city police. He also directed a WhatsApp group to be created with representatives of all relevant departments to coordinate efforts.

Koramangala and J. P. Nagar particularly see high footfall during NYE in South Corporation limits.

Mr. Raju directed Bescom officials to ensure that all streetlights in and around the pub clusters of Koramangala and J.P. Nagar are fully functional, and there is uninterrupted power supply during NYE in public places. He said temporary lighting arrangements must be installed immediately in poorly lit areas.

While the police have earmarked 10 beds at St. John's Hospital, beds will be reserved in Jayanagar Government Hospital as well. A total of six to seven teams, comprising doctors, nurses, and ambulances, will be deployed in areas identified by the police.

Mr. Raju instructed the Solid Waste Management Department to promptly clear waste generated during the celebrations.

To avoid accidents, officials were instructed to install mandatory signboards at all ongoing work sites in and around Koramangala and J.P. Nagar, and to immediately repair any poor footpaths.

Greater Bengaluru Authority elections likely in mid-2026

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Political parties have begun groundwork for the polls and are searching for suitable candidates. K. MURALI KUMAR

Civic polls in the newly formed Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) are likely to be held in the middle of next year, according to well-placed government sources.

The Cabinet, which met on Thursday, reportedly discussed the matter and tentatively agreed upon suggesting April or May 2026, to the Election Commission to hold polls, a source said. The GBA is currently working on the reservation roster for 369 wards across the five city corporations.

The State government has committed to notifying the reservation by December 15 and is expected to do so. After the formal inauguration of the GBA on September 2, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had announced that the delimitation committee, headed by the GBA Chief Commissioner, would complete the delimitation and reservation process by November 30.

However, a source in the GBA said the process was delayed owing to the Social and Education Survey and other important works. The reservation process is now in its final stages and will be completed soon.

If all goes as planned, the civic polls, already delayed by five years, will finally be held in 2026. Another GBA source said that panchayat polls will have to be conducted first, after which elections for the newly formed five corporations will be held.

Meanwhile, political parties have begun groundwork for the polls and are searching for suitable candidates.

Earlier, a senior Congress leader had told *The Hindu* that candidate selection would be a herculean task this time, as new wards have been formed and new faces have emerged over the past few years. Hinting at elections round the corner, civic issues in Bengaluru became a hot topic last month, with many party leaders launching various campaigns against ongoing and proposed projects in the city.

State-appointed probe finds lapses in KKHRAC Society

Report calls it one of the biggest fund misuse cases between 2020-21 and 2020–23

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

A State-appointed inquiry has uncovered extensive financial and administrative irregularities in the Kalyana Karnataka Human Resource, Agriculture and Cultural (KKHRAC) Society, with the investigator describing the alleged mismanagement as one of the biggest misuse of funds in Karnataka in three-year period from 2020-21 to 2022-23.

The report, prepared by retired IAS officer Sudhir Kumar, was recently submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. (*The Hindu* has access to a certain portion of the report.)

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and IT & BT Minister Priyank Kharge had repeatedly questioned the functioning of the KKHRAC Society and the alleged irregularities linked to it. The society was set up during the previous BJP government, with senior BJP leader and former Rajya Sabha member Basavaraj Patil Sedam as its president. After the Congress returned to power in 2023, Mr. Kharge wrote to the Chief Minister seeking a formal investigation. The Chief Minister subsequently ordered the probe.

According to the findings, the KKHRAC Society created what the report calls an 'entirely illegal' eighth entity named the 'Sub-Region of Kalaburagi–Sedam'. FILE PHOTO

According to the findings, the KKHRAC Society created what the report calls an 'entirely illegal' eighth entity named the 'Sub-Region of Kalaburagi-Sedam'. This sub-region was formed without the knowledge or permission of the State government and functioned as if it were an additional district under the Kalyana Karnataka region. The inquiry notes that Sedam Taluk and four neighbouring taluks were grouped and treated as a separate district for the purpose of planning and fund allocation, despite having no legal sanction. It may be noted that Sedam is the home town of Mr. Sedam. The report states that this unauthorised sub-region received unusually high allocations, at times even more than some of the seven legitimate districts of the Kalyana Karnataka region.

Annual expenditure statements reviewed by the investigator show that financial flows to this sub-region consistently exceeded what some of the other districts received, raising questions about the rationale and the process through which the funds were diverted. The report also notes that senior officers in the Planning and Finance Departments did not act to correct these irregularities even after discrepancies began to appear during 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Across the three years from 2020-21 to 2022-23, the society spent more than ₹322 crore out of the total funds available. This figure includes the roughly ₹300 crore released by the government as grants as well as the bank interest earned on those grants.

Official team will study feasibility of additional commissionerate for city, says Parameshwara

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Home Minister G. Parameshwara has said that he would consider setting up one more police commissionerate in Bengaluru city after sending a team to the police administration in metropolitan cities where additional commissionerates have been set up.

The Minister was responding to Congress member K. Govindraju's demand for one more police commissionerate for effective police administration in the Legislative Council in Belagavi on Thursday.

The Minister said additional commissionerates had been set up in the cities of Mumbai, New Delhi, and Hyderabad.

"As of now, I don't think one more commissionerate is required for Bengaluru city. We have six joint commissioners and 11 DCPs, besides four DCPs for traffic and nine ACPs for cyber crimes. However, in the future, considering the growth of the city and its population, we may require setting up one more commissionerate to handle the city," he stated.

Dr. Parameshwara said he would send a team of officials to Mumbai, New Delhi, and Hyderabad to study if opening new commissionerates helped in ensuring effective law and order maintenance.

"We will consider opening one more commissionerate after studying what has happened in other metropolitan cities," he said.

Earlier, Mr. Govindaraju, arguing for the additional commissionerate, stated that the commissionerate was set up in Bengaluru in 1964 with a DIG-rank officer as commissioner and two DCPs. The commissionerate was upgraded later in 1990 and 2010.

'Begin road work soon'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), has directed officials to begin work on 47 km of buffer roads under the Sanchara Yukta Project by the end of this month.

At a coordination meeting held on Thursday to review issues in the implementation of works taken up by various departments, he said a plan has been drawn up to develop around 300 km of buffer roads to strengthen neighbourhood streets, protect stormwater drains, improve mobility, and make effective use of buffer zones.

He directed each city corporation to submit road details and property or survey data, following which designs will be finalised.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, DEC. 13		
RISE	06:32	SET 17:55
RISE	00:59	SET 13:11
SUNDAY, DEC. 14		
RISE	06:33	SET 17:56
RISE	01:45	SET 13:46
MONDAY, DEC. 15		
RISE	06:33	SET 17:56
RISE	02:31	SET 14:22

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	20
Mysuru	29	17
Bengaluru	29	18

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry.Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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CIN: L74999DL2003GOI118633
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
EoI No.:RVNL/BD/EoI/2025/01
General Manager/Business Development on behalf of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from Indian Companies having experience in Metros, Railways, Highways, Marine & Port Works, Major Bridges, Tunnels, Institutional Buildings, Workshops/Depots, Traction & Power Supply (MRTS/Metro), Railway Electrification, Power Transmission & Distribution, Solar Power Systems, Railway S&T Works, Telecommunication Works, and various Mechanical Works and willing to associate with RVNL for upcoming projects in India & abroad.
EOI Submission cut-off Date and Time: 31/12/2025 up to 15:00 Hrs
For further details and updates, please visit https://rvnl.org/active-tenders. Any amendments or corrigenda, if issued, will also be hosted on the same website.
General Manager/Business Development

KARNATAKA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD
No.16, 2nd Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001
Ph: 080-22867369, e-mail: cgmksamb@gmail.com
Tender No: KSAMB/ACCTS-FD/Tender/AUCTION105/ 3480/2025-26 Dated: 12.12.2025
e-TENDER CUM e-AUCTION NOTIFICATION
Karnataka State Agricultural Marketing Board, Bengaluru is inviting e-bidding through e-procurement portal from Nationalized Banks/ Regional Rural Banks for placing of **Rs.20.00** Crores (Rupees Twenty Crores Only) for One year in Fixed Deposit. The detailed information can be obtained from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal vide Indent No:APMC/2025-26/AUCTION105 The last date for participation Date: **20.12.2025.**
Sd/-
Chief General Manager
KSAMB, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/SSC/4427/2025-26

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: SBC-GSU-ENGG-2025-06
Dated: 24.12.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Bangalore Cantonment: Proposed yard arrangements at Bangalore Cantonment for rectification of defective yard layout - Shifting of points and crossings in Bengaluru Cantt. (BNC) yard and proposed construction of drain for a length of 800m.	Rs. 1,90,78 546.20

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 24.12.2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Engineer/Gati Shakti Bengaluru
PUB/733/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com
No.Tender Online – RWCCESNG-23 of 2025-26, Letter No.3736 /Dtd.27.11.2025
e-Procurement NOTICE
1. Type of the Work : Road (MMSY)
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-23 of 2025-26	08.12.2025 11:00 AM	22.12.2025 5:00 PM	20.12.2025 5:00 PM	23.12.2025 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

● Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.
O-1780: OIPR-25133/11/0093/2526

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044
Email: ce1pmrda@gmail.com
E-Tender Notice No. 33 for FY 2025-26
PMRDA invites proposals through e-tendering for following work.

Sr. No.	Name of Work
1	"Empanelment of Project Management Consultants for Infrastructure Project related works in Pune Metropolitan Region."

The Detailed tender notice and Tender document of this work can be downloaded from the website: **www.mahatenders.gov.in** from 13th December 2025 at 11.00 Hrs. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 20th December 2025 upto 17:00 Hrs. The changes if any can be available on **www.mahatenders.gov.in** -Sd-
Chief Engineer (Addl. Charge)
Engineering Division-1
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.
Letter No. email : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com Date:
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e_Procurement Notice
1. Name of the Work : Construction of Road Works - 14 Nos.
2. Class of Contractor : "A" Class & Special Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : Various from Rs.302.00 Lakhs to Rs.650.00 Lakhs (Approximately)
4. Details of projects : As per Annexure attached.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCSBD - Online - 34/2025-26	15.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	05.01.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.	03.01.2026 up to 2.00 P.M.	06.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site : https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in
6. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.
Chief Construction Engineer, RW Circle, Sunabeda.
O-1707: OIPR-25182/11/0118/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.
Letter No. email : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com Date:
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e_Procurement Notice
1. Name of the Work : Construction of Road Works - 14 Nos.
2. Class of Contractor : "A" Class & Special Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : Various from Rs.310.00 Lakhs to Rs.700.00 Lakhs (Approximately)
4. Details of projects : As per Annexure attached.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCSBD - Online - 33/2025-26	15.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	05.01.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.	03.01.2026 up to 2.00 P.M.	06.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site : https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in
6. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.
Chief Construction Engineer, RW Circle, Sunabeda.
O-1708: OIPR-25182/11/0117/2526

Pune Metropolitan Regional Development Authority,Pune
E-Tender Notice No. 30 for FY 2025-26
PMRDA invites proposals through e-tendering Construction and Development of 18 meter wide DP road (Access road) for MHADA Housing Society at Mauje Mhalunge (Ingale), length-345 m, Tal. Khed, Dist. Pune in PMRDA Region.
The Tender document for this work can be downloaded from the website:www.mahatenders.gov.in from 16th December, 2025 at 11.00 Hrs. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 23rd December, 2025 upto 17.00 Hrs. The changes if any can be available on www.mahatenders.gov.in.
This Tender Notice can also be seen on PMRDA website.
-sd-
Chief Engineer, I/c.
Engineering Division I
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.
Letter No. email : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com Date:
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e_Procurement Notice
1. Name of the Work : Construction of Road Works - 13 Nos.
2. Class of Contractor : "B" Class,"A" Class & Special Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : Various from Rs.300.00 Lakhs to Rs.800.00 Lakhs (Approximately)
4. Details of projects : As per Annexure attached.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCSBD - Online - 32/2025-26	15.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	05.01.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.	03.01.2026 up to 2.00 P.M.	06.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site : https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in
6. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.
Chief Construction Engineer, RW Circle, Sunabeda.
O-1709: OIPR-25182/11/0119/2526

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po :- Ambapua, Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com; Tel No.:-0680-2404287)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement E-Mail/ E-despatch
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/44-2025-26/BPR

Identification No.	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 44 - 2025-26/ BPR	Road Works under MMSY-IMPROVEMENT TO EXISTING RD ROADS & MMSY-CMRL	10 Nos	From Rs.289.21 Lakhs to Rs.982.63 Lakhs	"B" Class, "A" Class & "Special Class as applicable	Period of Completion as provided as per Col.No.5 of Annexure of NIT

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur.	Online Tender / 44-2025-26/BPR	15.12.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	29.12.2025 upto 5.30 P.M.

(i) EMD / Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.
(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.
Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: - www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur
O-1735: OIPR-25071/11/0173/2526

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune 411044 Email: ce2wssd@gmail.com
E-Tender Notice No. 43 for FY 2025-26
PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of " **Appointment of a Contractor for the Pawana river Pollution Abatement Project under the jurisdiction of the PMRDA region."**
The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: www.mahatenders.gov.in from 24/12/2025 at 11.00 am. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 15/01/2026 upto 16.30 Pm. The changes if any can be available on www.mahatenders.gov.in.
Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

About 31% of SCSP/TSP funds used for guarantee schemes since 2023

Minister defends move stating Section 7(C) of the SCSP/TSP Act allows utilisation of the funds in tune with SC/ST population

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The State government has used a significant share of the amount earmarked for the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) towards implementing the five guarantee schemes of the Congress government since 2023.

According to statistics shared by Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, in response to a question by Hemalatha Nayak in the Legislative Council in Belagavi on Friday, of the total amount spent towards SCSP and TSP, as much as 31%, has been utilised for the guarantee schemes.

SCSP/ TSP funds spent towards guarantee schemes (in ₹ crores)

Year	Gruha Lakshmi	Anna Bhagya	Yuva Nidhi	Gruha Jyoti	Shakti
2023-24	5,075	1,635.09	3.7	1,561.92	928
2024-25	8,548.55	1,589.6	76.85	2,452.21	1,451.45
2025-26 (up to Nov.)	599.2	846.75	118.52	1,665.71	1,023.65
Total	14,222.75	4,071.44	199.07	5769.84	3,367.1

The Minister states the amount utilised for guarantee schemes reached the beneficiaries of the SC and ST communities

The total amount for SCSP and TSP for the year 2023-24 was ₹35,221.8 crore, and of that, ₹34,369.85 crore was released, and finally, ₹34,245.76 crore was spent. In the year 2024-24, the total amount spent for SCSP and TSP was ₹38,717.74 crore. In the current year, up to November 2025, the government had spent ₹14,938.19 crore towards the SCSP and TSP.

Since the Congress party came to power in 2023, the government has spent a total of ₹87,901.69 crore for SCSP and TSP. This amount includes ₹27,630.2 crore spent towards the guarantee schemes.

The Minister, in his reply, defended the utilisation of SCSP/TSP funds for the guarantee schemes, stating that Section 7(C) of the SCSP/TSP Act allows utilisation of the funds in tune with the population of SC and ST.

He stated that the amount utilised for guarantee schemes reached the beneficiaries of the SC and ST communities.

Bus travellers

Interestingly, he stated that his department had sought information from the Transport Department about the number of SC and ST women who had benefited from the Shakti scheme, under which women passengers could travel free in KSRTC buses. Ms. Nayak, the MLC, wondered how the Transport Department could share the information of the SC/ST passengers, as they do not collect the caste details while issuing tickets.

Leader of Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy appealed to Chairman Basavaraj Horatti to allot suitable time for a detailed discussion on the issue.

Opposition seeks action against Laxmi Hebbalkar for giving 'false info' to House

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The issue of reported "false information" provided by Minister for Women and Child Development Laxmi Hebbalkar on release of Gruha Lakshmi scheme installments resulted in Opposition members, led by Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok, demanding action against the Minister on Friday.

Raising the issue after the Question Hour in the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Ashok pointed out that while replying to the question by a member representing Hubballi Dharwad Central, Mahesh Tenginakai, on December 9, the Minister had categorically stated that the government had released all the installments of the scheme up to August 2025.

Even when Mr. Tenginakai pointed out that installments were not being released for February and March 2025, the Minister had emphasised that all installments had been paid.

"However, when Mr. Tenginakai sought details from the district-level officials of Dharwad, Haveri, and Gadag, they gave in writing that the installments for February and March have not been released. This is nothing but giving false information to the House," he said.

'Steps will be taken'

In his reply, Chief Minister Siddaramaih said that according to his information installments up to August had been released and if the installments for February and March had not been released, steps would be taken to release them.

However, the Opposition members were not satisfied with his answer and contended that the issue was not of non-release of funds, but was of giving false information to the House.

Mr. Ashok demanded that action be taken against the Minister or the officer who had provided the information.

The discussion concluded with Speaker U.T. Khader telling the House that he would take up the issue with the Minister concerned.

Mr. Khader said he would ask her to give her reply on the issue on Monday.

DKS at dinner meet sets off political chatter

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

A day after Yathindra, MLC and son of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, reiterated for the second time in a week that the Congress high command has ruled out any immediate change of leadership in Karnataka, a dinner meeting in Belagavi attended by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar created a buzz in political circles.

After a brief lull following the breakfast meeting of the two leaders, the public discourse on leadership has resumed even as the State Legislature Session is under way.

Though Mr. Shivakumar himself played down the meeting as non-political, the dinner hosted on Thursday night by former Belagavi District Congress Committee president Doddannavar, attended by the Deputy Chief Minister and at least two dozen legislators, became the talking point.

Among those present at the dinner were expelled BJP legislators Shivaram Hebbar and S.T. Somashekar, who are now seen often with Congress leaders, and at least two Cabinet Ministers. It is being speculated as a message of show of strength being given by the Deputy Chief Minister's camp.

'Need no support'

Mr. Shivakumar insisted it was no show of strength. "Nobody needs to come in my support," he insisted. About repeated statements by Mr. Yathindra, he said, "The Chief Minister will respond to all that". Asked about his trip to Delhi, Mr. Shivakumar said that he was going to attend the "vote theft" campaign event and nothing else.

Meanwhile, Mr. Somashekar said that Mr. Shivakumar had worked for the party and that he was hopeful of getting a chance. Iqbal Hussain, Congress MLA for Ramanagara, said that he was hopeful of Mr. Shivakumar becoming Chief Minister after the Winter Session. In a more direct reference to Mr. Yathindra, Shivaganga V. Basavaraj, MLA for Channagiri, questioned the propriety of an MLC speaking out of turn about what the high command would decide.

On the other hand, Energy Minister K.J. George and Public Works Minister Satish Jharkiholi downplayed the dinner meeting. Mr. Jharkiholi said that such parties are happening every day during the session. Incidentally, Mr. Siddaramaiah also attended a dinner hosted by Asif Sait, MLA for Belagavi North, earlier this week. "There is a system in the party and the high command will take a decision," Mr. George said.

Baiting him to react

Sources close to Mr. Shivakumar said that not too much should be read into such meetings.

"Mr. Shivakumar has not made any public statement on the leadership issue. A section of party leaders is trying to bait him to react. He is waiting for the high command decision".

Sources said that the high command is expected to call both leaders to Delhi to discuss the matter after the Winter Session.

Teams to check Kannada nameboard rules' implementation

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The State government will establish enforcement teams at multiple levels to monitor compliance with regulations requiring that name boards of commercial, industrial, and business entities display at least 60% of their information in the Kannada language.

Responding to a question by member Umashree in the Legislative Council on Friday, Minister for Kannada and Culture Shivaraj Tangadagi said that the State government would strictly implement the nameboard rules.

Mr. Tangadagi said the State government amended the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022, to ensure prominence to the Kannada language on nameboards.

"The Deputy Commissioners of districts are the authorities to implement the act effectively. Those who violate the rules will have to pay a penalty of ₹5,000 in the first instance. The penalty amount increases to ₹10,000 and ₹20,000 in case of repeating the violation, and finally, the firm may lose its licence to operate," he stated.

Ms. Umashree insisted that the rule had not been effectively implemented in Bengaluru.

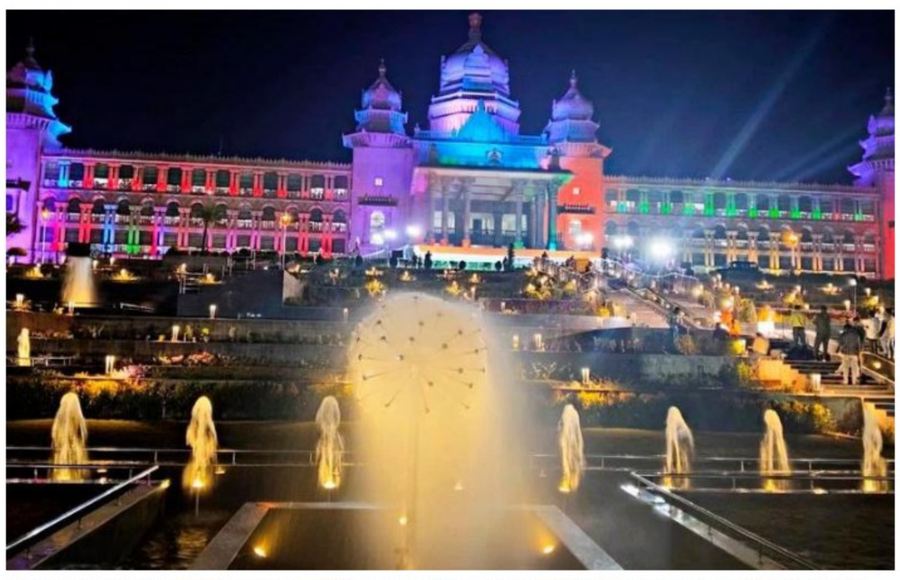
She questioned the delay in constituting the committees to oversee the implementation of the law that was passed in February 2024.

The Minister claimed that in some districts the rule had been implemented 100%, while it was around 95% in a few others.

"We will launch enforcement wings to identify those who violate the rules," he said.

Further, he stated that the committees at the district levels and gram panchayat levels had been formed already and will start functioning soon.

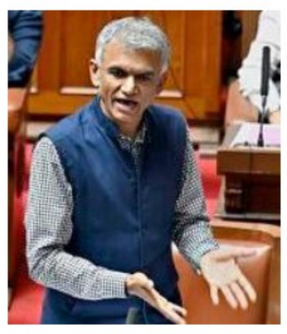
All lit up



A view of a fully illuminated Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi. The two-week Winter Session of the State Legislative Assembly commenced on December 8. P.K. BADIGER

Minister promises action in land grant certificates scam

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA



Krishna Byre Gowda

The State government will take action against the government officials allegedly involved in the creation of as many as 98 fake land grant certificates in Chikkanayakanahalli taluk of Tumakuru district, promised Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

Responding to a question raised by member Ramesh Babu during the Zero Hour in the Legislative Council in Belagavi on Friday, Mr. Byre Gowda said that the department had been conducting an inquiry into the allegations.

A team of senior officers visited the taluk on November 13 and found that 98 fake land grant certificates had been created and inserted into the official files.

Among those who got the fake certificates, 32 people had applied for khatas. The department had filed an FIR against those land grabbers, the Minister said.

The Minister said that fake land records were created with the knowledge of government officials in the record room of the Revenue Department.

"I have instructed the officers to book a case against all those officials who have been in charge of the record room since 2018. A team had been constituted to identify those who created the fake records. A few signatures on the records could be matched to the signatures of the officials," said the Minister.

He said the inquiry team has sought a time of one more week to complete the probe.

"We will file an FIR against the officials involved, besides a department inquiry against them," the Minister stated.

Law Minister opts out of debate on NK after Opposition objection

H. K. Patil, Minister of Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Legislation, speaking during the Winter Session at Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi on Friday.

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

In an interesting development, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil on Thursday decided to withdraw himself from participating in the ongoing debate in the Assembly on the issues related to North Karnataka after the Opposition members raised objections on the grounds that there was no precedence of the Ministers taking part in such a debate. The Law Minister, a veteran politician hailing from North Karnataka, had showed interest in participating in the legislature debate on development of North Karnataka.

However, when he rose to begin his speech on Thursday, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok objected by arguing that there was no precedence of the Ministers participating in the debates.

Patil argues he had already taken the permission of the Chief Minister and the Speaker

"The Ministers can only make statements by obtaining the Speaker's permission, but not participate in any debate. Generally, the Ministers will have the last word like a judge. If they themselves, while participating in the debate, helplessly refer to lacunae, it would send a wrong signal," he argued.

But Mr. Patil argued that he had already taken the permission of the Chief Minister and the Speaker, and he would only offer suggestions on the development of North Karnataka, he said.

He maintained that several Ministers and former Speaker Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri himself had participated in the debate on Constitution and electoral reforms during the regime of the erstwhile BJP government.

But BJP leader Sunil Kumar made it clear that those two debates were completely different as the government had not replied to them.

Finally, Mr. Patil himself opted out the debate, while stating that he did not want to go against the sentiments of the Opposition members.

NK leaders point to disparity in infra, per capita income between south and north Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The discussion on the problems of North Karnataka continued in the Legislative Assembly on Friday, with senior leader B.R. Patil and others highlighting the disparities in sanction of various facilities between the South and North Karnataka.

Participating in the discussion, Mr. Patil sought to know how development is possible when there were large-scale disparities in facilities extended to South and North Karnataka.

Medical facilities

"In accordance with the population, Mysuru division should have 393 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) but it has 670. Similarly Bengaluru Division has 652 against the required 406. But in Kalyana Karnataka only 352 PHCs are there against the requirement of 395. The officials talk of guidelines when it comes to NK issues, but sanction additional number for Mysuru and Bengaluru," he said.

Mr. Patil suggested one time sanction of 300 PHCs to Kalyana Karnataka as a one time measure to address the issue. He said that although Attcle 371(J) had come into effect, the implementation was not effective. He suggested the formation of an authoity to address this. "No politician should be appointed to it. Instead, former judges, former Vice Chancellors, and experts should be appointed," he demanded.

Per capita income

Participating in the discussion, Member Ganesh Hukkeri pointed out, "The per capita income of an individual in Bengaluru is ₹6 lakh, but it is ₹1.30 lakh in Kalaburagi and ₹1.5 lakh in Belagavi. The government should take remedial measures to bridge this big gap," he said.

Member Ashok Mangali demanded the setting up of Kittur Karnataka Development Board on the lines of KKRDB and urged the government to focus on tourism development in Vijayapura.

State forms technical team to expedite Mekedatu project

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka government has issued a notification to form a team led by the Karnataka Engineering Research Station (KERS) director to expedite Mekedatu project "in view of the favourable Supreme Court order".

Recently, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, reviewed measures on implementation of the project, and announced that the project office would be set up in Ramanagara. The team under the KERS director will comprise an executive engineer, three technical assistants, six assistant engineers, one accountant, a superintendent and other staff.

The Cauveri Neeravari Nigam Ltd. (CNNL) will take steps to set up the Mekedatu project office. The team will function under the leadership of KNNL director and administrative expenses would be borne by the KNNL, according to the Government Order (GO).

The director of KNNL has been instructed to hand over all the relevant documents related to the Mekedatu project to the KERS director, the GO said.

SC stays HC verdict in Munambam land row

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed a Kerala High Court order which struck down the registration of the contentious Munambam holding as a Waqf property, and ordered status quo over the disputed property.

A Bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Ujjal Bhuyan said clarified it has not stayed the direction of the High Court upholding the government order appointing an inquiry commission to ascertain ownership of the disputed area. The apex court issued a notice to the Kerala government and sought its response on the plea filed by the Vedhi challenging the October 10 order of the High Court.

The organisation has contended that the order of the Division Bench violated the doctrine of statutory finality by rendering its findings on the validity of the Waqf declaration, a matter that was within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Waqf Tribunal.

The Vedhi has contended that the Division Bench transgressed its jurisdiction and passed a declaration on the property, which is a registered waqf, in a writ petition after bypassing the statutory procedures, especially when the issue was pending before the Waqf Tribunal.

Moreover, it argued, the issue whether the Munambam property was a waqf was not even the subject matter of the proceedings.

Actor rape case convicts get 20 years rigorous jail term

The six convicts were awarded life imprisonment over gang rape and criminal conspiracy, among other punishments; from the fine slapped on them, ₹5 lakh must go to the survivor, the court said

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The six convicts in the 2017 actor rape case were on Friday awarded imprisonment for 20 years each on two counts for gang rape (IPC 376 D) and criminal conspiracy [IPC 120 (b)] among other punishments.

However, all the punishments of the convicts will run concurrently and they will have to serve a jail term of 20 years. The number of days they were imprisoned during the pendency of the trial will be deducted from the 20-year jail term, the court announced.

Ernakulam Principal Sessions Judge Honey M. Varghese awarded the punishments for the convicts on Friday.

Guilty as charged: N.S. Sunil being produced before the Principal Sessions Court, Ernakulam, on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The convicts N.S. Sunil, aka 'Pulsar' Suni, Martin, Manikandan, Vijeesh, Salim, and Pradeep were awarded the punishment after hearing them and their lawyers on the day.

The court had earlier acquitted actor Dileep and three others in the case. The judicial justification for acquitting Mr. Dileep would be known when the judgment is available in the public domain.

All six accused were awarded rigorous imprisonment for 10 years each for assault or use of criminal force to a woman with the intent to disrobe her and simple imprisonment of one year each for wrongful confinement.

Sunil was awarded another punishment of rigorous imprisonment of three years under Section 66E (for violation of privacy) of the Information Technology (IT) Act and another rigorous imprisonment of five years under Section 67A (punishment for publishing or transferring obscene materials in electronic form) under the IT Act.

All the accused were slapped with a fine in the case. An amount of ₹5 lakh shall be paid to the survivor in the event of the fine being realised, the court directed.

T.N. 'crushing' sentiments of Hindus, says Anurag Thakur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP MP Anurag Thakur on Friday accused the Tamil Nadu government of "crushing" the sentiments of Hindus and resorting to appeasement politics.

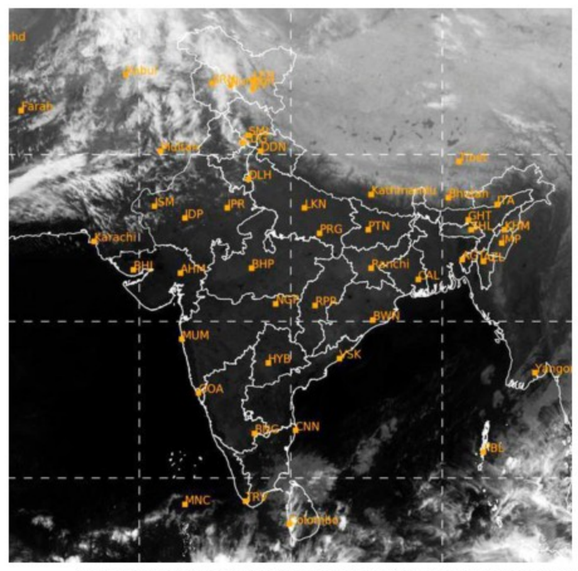
During Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, he accused the DMK-led government of contempt of court for cane-charging Hindu devotees taking out a procession at Thiruparankundram temple near Madurai.

This led to strong protests from DMK MPs who trooped into the Well of the House following which the House was adjourned briefly.

"One state has become anti-Sanatan Dharma and Ministers are making anti-Hindu statements," the MP said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Thunderstorm with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Cold wave/ severe cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka. Dense fog likely at isolated pockets over Punjab, Delhi, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.0	12.9	Kozhikode	—	33.4	22.4
Ahmedabad	—	30.4	13.1	Kurnool	—	31.5	14.9
Aizawl	—	25.9	13.0	Lucknow	—	24.1	10.4
Allahabad	—	25.8	9.2	Madurai	—	32.0	22.4
Bengaluru	—	27.7	15.0	Mangaluru	—	32.9	19.5
Bhopal	—	27.2	6.5	Mumbai	—	33.7	15.6
Bhubaneswar	—	29.0	12.6	Mysuru	—	29.0	15.8
Chandigarh	—	23.9	6.8	New Delhi	—	26.6	8.0
Chennai	—	29.3	22.6	Patna	—	24.0	13.3
Coimbatore	—	30.6	19.0	Port Blair	—	30.5	23.2
Dehradun	—	24.0	8.7	Puducherry	—	28.0	21.0
Gangtok	—	18.0	7.5	Pune	—	30.2	13.2
Goa	—	33.2	17.5	Raipur	—	29.2	12.3
Guwahati	—	26.5	11.5	Ranchi	—	22.6	8.3
Hubballi	—	29.0	13.0	Shillong	—	19.0	7.6
Hyderabad	—	30.1	10.8	Shimla	—	20.8	8.8
Imphal	—	24.1	10.3	Srinagar	—	11.0	-3.6
Jaipur	—	27.4	11.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.5	23.7
Kochi	—	30.6	23.6	Tiruchi	—	29.7	21.0
Kohima	—	15.5	7.0	Vijayawada	—	29.4	17.5
Kolkata	—	26.2	14.0	Visakhapatnam	—	29.6	19.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.41	..75	.39	...139	...169	
Bengaluru	...5	..26	.30	...247	...156	
Chennai	...2	..23	..—	...210	...148	
Delhi	.24	112	105	...415	...382	
Hyderabad	.15	..16	.40	...110	...104	
Kolkata	...9	100	.38	...317	...278	
Lucknow	.12	..52	.23	...315	...188	
Mumbai	.27	122	.33	...110	...115	
Pune	..—	..14	.72	...310	...296	
Visakhapatnam	.29	112	.18	...200	...236	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 400 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Nine killed, 10 injured as bus falls into gorge in A.P.

T. Appala Naidu
CHINTOOR

Nine tourists died on the spot while ten survived with severe injuries, when a private travel bus with 37 people on board fell into a gorge in the forest of Papikonda National Park of Alluri Sitharama Raju district, Andhra Pradesh, on Friday.

The accident occurred reportedly due to poor visibility at around 4 a.m. The tourists were on their way from Araku Valley to Bhadhachalam. "Nine tourists died on the spot. Poor visibility and the driver's lack of knowledge of the route are suspected to have caused the accident. We are investigating the fitness of the bus," ASR District Superintendent of Police Amit Bardar said.

Of the nine deceased, five are women. The bodies have been sent to the Government Area Hospital in Chintoor for autopsy.

The Mothugudem police have registered a case and an investigation is on.

Passengers being rescued from the bus after it fell into a gorge in Papikonda National Park on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The government has announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh to the kin of each deceased, Home Minister V. Anitha said. "A decision has been taken to restrict vehicular movements along the ghat roads in ASR district between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. during the winter to prevent road accidents," she said.

ASR District Collector A.S. Dinesh Kumar is monitoring the healthcare services being extended to the survivors.

CM expresses grief

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock and asked the officials to ensure the best healthcare services to the survivors.

He conveyed his deep condolences to the bereaved families.

INBRIEF

Minister's inaugural speech at IFFK begins with a *valkoppam*

The inaugural function of the 30th International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) turned into a platform to express solidarity with the survivor in the actor assault case. Hours after a trial court announced the quantum of sentence for the convicted, Minister for Cultural Affairs Saji Cherian began his inaugural speech by declaring that the government stands with the survivor. "The IFFK has always stood a *valkoppam* [with her]. Today, I want to reiterate that Kerala and the State government stand with her," he said.

Crime Branch team to probe rape cases against Kerala MLA

The Kerala Police have decided to combine probes into two rape cases against Palakkad MLA Rahul Mamkootathil under a single Crime Branch team headed by AIG G. Poonguzhali. The move assumes significance against the backdrop of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan hinting at the possibility of more "disclosures" on Thursday. Officials said Additional Director General of Police, Law and Order and Crime Branch, H. Venkatesh has proposed that Ms. Poonguzhali supervise both probes, given the "broad comparability" of the offences.

Teen abducted from hostel, raped in Andhra Pradesh

A youth allegedly kidnapped a 16-year-old girl from her hostel and raped her in Nunna, Andhra Pradesh. The survivor, an intermediate student, was living in a government hostel. The accused, identified as Isaac, allegedly took the minor away from her hostel, married the girl against her wishes, and raped her a few days ago. The police has registered a case under POCSO Act, 2012, and Section 9 of Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. The Krishna district Child Welfare Committee recorded the survivor's statement. She has been shifted to a childcare institution.

Art defaming Kerala being honoured nationally: Pinarayi at Biennale launch

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Organised attempts to defame Kerala using art are being honoured at the national level, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Friday as he inaugurated the sixth edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale (KMB) at Parade Ground, Fort Kochi.

He said the very relevance of awards has been called into question by the act of honouring films that tarnished the State. He called for an artistic resistance against the attempts by 'destructive forces' to implement regressive ideas by crushing down diversity. "Biennale should be able to set the stage for the attempts to prevent such acts. It should take the lead in the resistance activities," he said.

Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurates 6th edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale at Parade Ground, Fort Kochi, on Friday. THULASI KAKKAT

Presenting the theme of the sixth edition of the KMB – For the time being – curator Nikhil Chopra said an artist's freedom was the symbol of the freedom of a society.

Industries Minister P. Rajeeve, Hibi Eden, MP, MLAs T.J. Vinod and K.J. Maxy, Mayor M. Anilkumar, CPI(M) General Secretary M.A. Baby, Special Representative of the Government of Kerala at New Delhi K.V. Thomas, Additional Chief Secretary (Museum and Archives) Rajan N. Khobragade, KMB patron M.A. Yousuffali, KBF trustees Adeeb Ahamed, Mariam Ram, Amrita Jhaveri, Shabana Faisal, Tony Joseph and N.S. Madhavan, KBF Director of Programmes Mario D'Souza and former Editor-in-Chief of *The Hindu* N. Ram were among those who attended the inaugural ceremony.

Police foil BJP protest over govt. sponsoring Messi in Hyderabad

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Govt. spending public money just to please CM Revanth Reddy, who is a football fan, alleges BJP

A protest lead by BJP leader A. Maheshwar Reddy outside the office of Singareni Collieries at Red Hills in Hyderabad, Telangana, on Friday morning, was foiled by the police.

Even as the leaders, including general secretary N. Gautam Rao, reached the site and tried to do a sit-in, the police arrested them and whisked them away to the Begum Bazaar police station. Their demonstration before the coal company's office was to protest against the State government's decision to sponsor Argentinian football player Lionel Messi's visit to the city.

The party has alleged that the government is spending crores of rupees of public money just to please Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who is a football fan.

Civil society group flags concerns over Karnataka hate speech Bill

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A civil society organisation has urged the Karnataka government to subject the proposed Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, to wider public consultation before it is tabled in the Legislative Council. It has already been tabled in the Assembly.

While welcoming the intent behind the legislation, Campaign Against Hate Speech, the organisation, said the Bill in its present form raises several concerns that warrant careful review.

In a representation to the government, the group said the Bill marks an important acknowledgement of the harm hate speech and hate crimes inflict on constitutional values of fraternity and dignity. Stating that such acts disproportionately target women, minority and queer communities, they cautioned that the current version risks being ineffective and may leave scope for misuse.

A key concern is the Bill's definition of "hate crime", which is limited to communication of hate speech. "This creates a false equivalence between speech and physical acts of violence, and fails to recognise offences such as mob lynching, punitive demolitions and social or economic boycotts. The Bill also provides no standalone punishment for hate speech, and relies on an emotion-based definition – an approach that has already led to weak enforcement under existing criminal laws," the memorandum stated.

The range of punishment for hate crimes was questioned for its lack of clarity, especially since the offence is non-bailable and cognisable. Sections granting broad "preventive" powers to the Executive Magistrate and police were flagged as potentially enabling arbitrary action, as the law does not define the scope of such powers or the due process requirements.

Another point of concern, the group said, is the provision allowing a designated officer to block or remove online content construed as hate crime material even before trial.

Emphasising that the Bill has far-reaching implications, the organisation cited the Supreme Court's emphasis on meaningful public consultation and referred to the Centre's 2014 Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy.

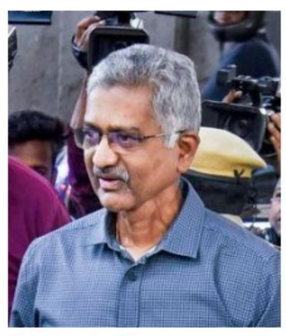
Phone-tapping case: former Special Intelligence Branch chief Prabhakar surrenders

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Former Special Intelligence Branch (SIB) chief of Telangana, T. Prabhakar Rao, surrendered before Jubilee Hills police on Friday, complying with the directions issued by the Supreme Court in the ongoing phone-tapping probe.

Mr. Rao, the main accused in the case, appeared before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) at the Jubilee Hills police station at 11.00 a.m., where he was questioned by the investigating officer of the case, Jubilee Hills Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) P. Venkatagiri.

The team is examining his role in the alleged surveillance operations.



T. Prabhakar Rao

The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered him to surrender immediately and cooperate with custodial interrogation.

Major lead

The Bench instructed the SIT to ensure his safety in custody, bar any third degree methods, and allow him to receive food from home.

The next hearing is on December 19.

Investigators expect Mr. Rao's questioning to help establish how the alleged phone-tapping network was planned and carried out.

His surrender is likely to accelerate the pace of the probe.

The case surfaced after the arrest of former SIB DSP Praneeth Rao on March 13, 2024.

He was picked up from his home in Rajanna Sircilla after Additional Superintendent of Police (SP) D. Ramesh filed a complaint alleging unlawful interception of calls belonging to senior political leaders and officials.

FTAs for a start

Support for exports is a must for sustained gains from trade pacts

According to the World Trade Organization, India has entered into 20 regional or free trade agreements (FTA). This count excludes the most recent pacts signed with the United Kingdom in July and with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which came into effect in October. Also under way are negotiations, most notably with the United States, the European Union, Canada and the Southern African Customs Union. With India now facing American tariffs of up to 50% on key exports, there are intensive efforts to fast-track these agreements. Some reports have even suggested discussions around a re-engagement with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which India walked away from in 2019 over concerns related to farm sectors and rules of origin. However, New Delhi has not accepted accession; at most, it has explored consultative channels. Yet, trade diversification demands far more – a deep, deliberate transformation of the country's productive sectors and integration into global value chains.

Commerce Ministry data show that some earlier FTAs – with ASEAN, Japan and South Korea – have tilted the trade balance sharply against India. The trade deficit with ASEAN widened from about $10 billion in 2017 to nearly $44 billion by 2023. A similar pattern holds for Japan – despite India's exports rising, imports of high-value, capital-intensive goods have grown even faster. The reasons are structural and policy-driven. While FTAs opened the door, mutual recognition arrangements on quality standards, certifications, rules of origin and other non-tariff barriers were not adequately negotiated. Many FTAs were not custom-designed to reflect India's sectoral strengths, nor were consultations with industry bodies sufficiently robust. The government did too little to popularise these agreements domestically, even as partner economies made full use of the preferential margins. A review of the ASEAN, Japan and Korea FTAs has brought some course correction. This is reflected in the more balanced outcomes under the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement – non-oil trade touched about $100 billion in FY25 (DGFT data). As India accelerates negotiations with the EU and the U.S., it must internalise these lessons. In the case of the U.S., consultations with services, seafood, engineering goods and textiles exporters must shape India's negotiating stance. With the EU, the focus must be on carbon-intensive sectors such as iron and steel and cement, especially given the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. A trade agreement is only the beginning. The arduous task of supporting India's exporters – through standards, infrastructure, technology and market intelligence – must follow if these pacts are to deliver lasting gains.

Endless ordeal

Bringing all conspirators to justice is a must to build faith in the system

Eight years after a prominent Malayalam woman actor was abducted and sexually assaulted in a moving car in Kochi, a trial court on December 8 convicted six men of gang rape, criminal conspiracy, wrongful confinement, and destruction of evidence, among other charges. On December 12, they were sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment. The court, however, acquitted actor Dileep and two others of all charges, including that of masterminding the conspiracy, citing insufficient evidence. The decision triggered widespread outrage, with activists decrying a disturbing pattern of powerful men dodging accountability in high-profile sexual violence cases. The survivor's exemplary courage in pursuing justice galvanised civil society and many women in the industry. The incident also exposed deep-seated misogyny and machismo in Malayalam cinema. Women rallied behind the survivor but faced vicious online campaigns and denial of work. The Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA), controlled by men, unravelled under scrutiny; a group of resolute women formed the Women in Cinema Collective to demand a safer, more equitable workplace and endured professional boycott and cyber-bullying.

Very soon, the Kerala government constituted a committee under a retired High Court judge to examine gender issues in the industry. Its report, released after sustained pressure, catalysed further reform: women were elected to leadership positions in AMMA, Internal Complaints Committees became mandatory on film sets, and the government is now finalising a comprehensive policy to address film workplace safety and equality. The developments inspired demands from other regional film industries to follow suit. During the trial, the survivor repeatedly, but unsuccessfully, sought a change of judge, alleging bias during the prosecution held in-camera. She also raised serious concerns about tampering with crucial video evidence: its hash value had changed while in judicial custody, suggesting unauthorised access. Although the court convicted the direct perpetrators and confirmed a conspiracy, its failure to hold the alleged mastermind liable has eroded the survivor's faith in the process. The Kerala government has rightly announced that it will appeal. Faced with rampant criticism, the judge, Honey M. Varghese, warned the media and others of contempt proceedings for casting aspersions on the court. Bringing all conspirators to justice is critical to reaffirming women's confidence in the system and encouraging them to fearlessly report injustice. For the survivor, a thorough and transparent appellate process offers the only path to closure.

The Indian Ocean as cradle of a new blue economy

Kilaparti Ramakrishna

is the Director of Marine Policy Centre and Senior Adviser to the President on Ocean and Climate Policy at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the world's largest independent oceanographic institution at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, U.S.

When the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was negotiated in the 1970s and early 1980s, India stood with the world's smallest and most vulnerable states. Alongside Pacific Island countries, India championed the principle that the seabed beyond national jurisdiction should be the "common heritage of mankind". It was a remarkable moment: a large developing country aligning itself with island nations, not for advantage, but for fairness.

This was not new for India. As early as the 1950s, Jawaharlal Nehru recognised the ocean's centrality to India's future, declaring: "Whichever way we turn, we are drawn to the seas. Our future security and prosperity are closely linked with the freedom and the resources of the oceans." That foresight set the stage for India's enduring role as both a maritime nation and a maritime leader. Half a century later, the ocean faces pressures unimaginable at the time of UNCLOS. Climate change is heating and acidifying the seas, sea levels are rising, and illegal and unregulated fishing is stripping marine life from the water column.

The Indian Ocean, home to one-third of humanity, is already one of the most climate-vulnerable basins on earth.

India now has both the opportunity and the responsibility to play a historic leadership role once again. This time, the task is not to draft law, but to shape practice – ensuring that the Indian Ocean becomes not a theatre of rivalry, but a laboratory of sustainability, innovation, and resilience.

The case for a Blue Ocean strategy

India's Blue Ocean Strategy should rest on three pillars: stewardship of the commons, resilience, and inclusive growth.

First, stewardship. India must continue to assert that the Indian Ocean is a shared space, not a contested one. By prioritising ecosystem restoration, biodiversity protection, and sustainable fisheries, India can set the tone for cooperative management, rather than competitive exploitation.

Second, resilience. As the climate crisis intensifies, ocean nations must focus on adaptation and preparedness. India can lead by establishing a Regional Resilience and Ocean Innovation hub – one that strengthens ocean observation networks, improves early warning systems, and transfer technology to small island developing states and African coastal nations.

Third, inclusive growth. The Indian Ocean must become a driver of prosperity for all littoral states. Green shipping, offshore renewable energy, sustainable aquaculture, and marine biotechnology offer pathways to development that are compatible with climate goals. Realising this potential, however, will require sustained investment and coordinated regional action.

India must take the lead in promoting the guiding principle, 'From the Indian Ocean, for the World'

It is encouraging that the financial tide is beginning to turn. At the Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF) held in Monaco, in June 2025, governments, development banks and private investors highlighted a €25 billion pipeline of existing ocean investments and announced €8.7 billion in new commitments, with near-parity between public and private sources. The Finance in Common Ocean Coalition, bringing together 20 public development banks, announced annual pledges of $7.5 billion, while the Development Bank of Latin America doubled its blue economy target to $2.5 billion by 2030.

At COP30 in Belém, the Brazilian Presidency launched the One Ocean Partnership as part of the Belém Action Agenda, committing to mobilise $20 billion for ocean action by 2030. These signals matter. They demonstrate that the ocean – long marginal in climate finance – is now firmly on the global agenda.

India must seize this moment to channel global financing into regional priorities. An Indian Ocean Blue Fund, seeded by India and open to contributions from development banks, philanthropy, and the private sector, could provide the institutional architecture needed to turn pledges into projects.

Security through sustainability

Much of today's discourse on the Indian Ocean is framed in terms of "Indo-Pacific strategy", naval balance, freedom of navigation, and secure sea lanes. These concerns are legitimate. But they should not obscure a more fundamental reality: ocean insecurity begins with ecosystem collapse and climate disruption.

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, coral reef degradation and intensifying storm surges erode livelihoods and undermine social stability. Addressing these threats requires a shift from traditional notions of maritime security toward security through sustainability.

India's doctrine of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mauritius in 2015, offers an important anchor, "We seek a future for the Indian Ocean that lives up to its name as a zone of peace, stability and prosperity," he said.

The Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard, working alongside civilian agencies, can deepen regional cooperation in maritime domain awareness, disaster response and ecosystem monitoring - aligning security objectives with environmental stewardship. Equally important is the story India chooses to tell. Not of rivalry, but of responsibility. Not of dominance, but of stewardship. As External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has noted, India's approach to the Indian Ocean is "cooperative, consultative, and outcome-oriented," aimed at shared prosperity and stability.

The guiding principle should be simple and resonant: "From the Indian Ocean, for the World."

India's historic responsibility

At the Stockholm Conference in 1972, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi warned, "We do not want to impoverish the environment any more than we want to impoverish our people." That insight remains strikingly relevant.

COP30 in Belém (2025) and the G-20 Summit in Johannesburg recognised the importance of terrestrial and marine ecosystems for climate stability, sustainable development, and community resilience as well as anchoring scaling up of finance and support for developing countries, aligning with the equity dimensions of ocean action.

Momentum is building. With the outcomes of the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, COP30 in Belém, and the entry into force of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, 2026 is shaping up to be a pivotal year for ocean governance. India's readiness to ratify the BBNJ Agreement presents an opportunity to demonstrate how the Indian Ocean region can pioneer globally relevant solutions, from green shipping corridors and blue bonds to inclusive marine technology transfer and carefully governed ocean-based carbon dioxide removal. This agenda could also serve as a defining theme for India's chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association.

India's history in ocean diplomacy gives it credibility. India's future in ocean leadership gives it the responsibility. The Indian Ocean, the cradle of some of the world's oldest civilisations, can now become the cradle of a new blue economy, one that marries prosperity with sustainability, and resilience with justice.

The challenge is clear: to move beyond rhetoric, to align vision with finance, and to build partnerships that endure. For the world, the message is urgent: the ocean is not a void to be filled or a frontier to be conquered. It is the foundation of life itself.

If India leads with ambition, humility, and inclusivity, the Indian Ocean can once again demonstrate what was evident during UNCLOS negotiations: that even in the most complex of arenas, cooperation can prevail over conflict, and solidarity over rivalry.

The time to act is now.

A critical story that a chunk of the media missed

Karan Thapar

is a television anchor

The release of the national accounts data for Quarter 2 recently was also one that coincided with serious concerns being expressed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) about the way India calculates its data. In fact, the IMF has given India's national accounts statistics, which includes Gross Domestic Product and Gross Value Added, a C grade, which is the second lowest grade. While Q2 produced 8.2% growth – much more than expected – very few would be aware of the IMF's concerns.

This is because the media virtually ignored what the IMF had to say. Only one daily, *The Hindu*, reported it and made it a front page story ("IMF gives 'C' grade for India's national accounts statistics", November 28, 2025), but the pink papers, which should have been the most interested in this report, ignored it to a large extent. When some of these newspapers decided that it was worth publishing, they did so, but only in the inside pages, which was bizarre and perplexing.

An issue

The truth is that the IMF's grading of India's national accounts statistics is a matter of concern and a key part of that is how we calculate GDP.

India uses the formal organised sector as a proxy for calculating growth in the informal unorganised sector. But the unorganised sector, even after excluding agriculture, is still 30% of GDP. So the first question is this: do we really have a reliable and accurate way of estimating growth in this sizeable sector or is it just an intelligent guesstimate?

The International Monetary Fund's grading of India's national accounts statistics is a matter of concern

'A less than reliable method'

Pronab Sen, the former Chief Statistician, and Arun Kumar, a former professor of economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University – the economists this writer spoke to – believe that this is "a less than reliable method".

Their concern needs explanation. When you use the organised sector as a proxy for calculating the unorganised sector, the assumption made is that they have both moved in the same direction. But when there is a crisis or an unusual development, that may not be the case. And that is exactly what happened when India went through demonetisation, the introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the COVID-19 pandemic. These events have meant that India's organised and unorganised sectors have not been in kilter. They have moved in different directions.

While the organised sector expanded on all three occasions, the unorganised sector went into decline. So, during these years, using the organised sector as a proxy for calculating the unorganised sector meant that we were overestimating the performance of the unorganised sector.

What does this mean about India's quarterly estimates? It must be remembered that what made the media euphoric was the quarterly estimate of 8.2% growth. Professor Sen's statement must be brought in at this point: "For the quarterly GDP estimates we make a lot of assumptions. We simply don't have quarterly data for most things. Now[,] when we don't have the data you have to go by assumptions. You look at past relationships, past trends and try to do the best you can. But until we get to a situation where most of the data that we need for quarterly estimations are actually corrected physically[,] this problem is not going to get solved."

The answer is blunt

This leads to another conclusion. The concern that the IMF has expressed, and which underlies the lowly 'C' grade, is not going to be hastily resolved. There is no doubt that the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is working on updating the GDP base year and methodology of calculation and hopes to release the new series next year, probably by the end of February. But the question is this: how much improvement will we see in the way the unorganised sector is estimated? When asked if India can adequately resolve the IMF's concern, Prof. Sen's answer was short and blunt: "I don't think we can."

All this has been mentioned because we rely on the media to inform us and, usually, to help us analyse and understand. But if the media ignores critical stories, it leaves us not just uninformed but also unable to fully understand what has happened. It also means that journalists are not doing their job. That is a sorry outcome for all of us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In Parliament

The winter session of Parliament, so far, witnessed intense debate on the national song, *Vande Mataram*, and on electoral reforms, highlighting, once again, the value of parliamentary discourse. While the heated statements from members of the Bharatiya Janata Party made it clear that the discussion on the national song was driven largely by a symbolic political agenda, the debate on electoral reform turned out to be a missed opportunity. Important concerns regarding the transparency of election funding, the integrity of the electoral process, and the independence and verification mechanisms of the Election Commission of India were raised. However, these substantive issues did not receive the thoughtful and constructive deliberation that they deserved. It is essential that all political parties understand the importance of meaningful debate in Parliament rather than reducing such discussions to blame games or political grandstanding. Only then can reforms truly serve the public interest.

M. Jeyaram,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

It is a matter of significant public concern that parliamentary debates in India, in terms of number and quality, have been on the decline, a trend highlighted by data on the number of sitting days, the time spent on discussions on key issues, and the increasing frequency of disruptions. Rising political polarisation and a lack of bipartisanship have considerably reduced the scope for constructive dialogue and consensus-building. To put it candidly, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, religious nationalism continues to gain strength that often diverts public attention from the core issues confronting the country. While India's economic performance, which is the essence of a growing democratic nation, remains lacklustre, despotic tactics, on the contrary, silence dissent. Parliamentary debates are the cornerstone of a truly vibrant democracy. It is through such tools that a democracy ensures parliamentary scrutiny of the executive's decisions.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Incorrect practice

It has become an almost routine act by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to insert advertisements in newspapers cautioning the public about the wrong practice by many cooperative societies of using the word 'bank' along with their names. The advertisements make it clear that it is illegal to add the word 'bank' with their names as they are not registered or covered under the Banking Regulation Act. As such wrongful projection is not a cognisable offence, unless there is a specific complaint about this, no agency will file a case against the societies for this.

The RBI or Registrar of Cooperative Societies in States must initiate suitable steps to penalise these societies for taking the public for a ride and for accepting deposits from the general public.

Unnikrishnan Nair B.C.,
Kuthiathode, Alappuzha, Kerala

Corrections & Clarifications

In a report, "Opposition walks out as BJP MP withdraws question on forensics question in Rajya Sabha" (Inside pages, December 11, 2025), the reference to Rule 253 ("Division by operating automatic vote recorder") was incorrect. It should have been Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), which is on "Withdrawal or postponement of questions". No question was "skipped" as the question (Question 107) was withdrawn. When the Chairman moved from Question 106 to 108, the Opposition protested. The Chairman clarified that Question 107 had been withdrawn by the member who posed it.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28576347/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Policemen outside the Birch by Romeo Lane night club at Arpora in North Goa on December 7. At least 25 people were killed in the massive fire that spread at the club the previous night. MURALI KUMAR K.

The party that took a tragic turn in Goa

On December 6, a fire claimed 25 lives during a party at Birch by Romeo Lane, an establishment in Arpora in Goa. The restaurant-cum-club was built on a salt pan and had only a narrow entrance and exit, survivors and activists allege. **Rishikesh Bahadur Desai** reports on the night's happenings and the worries of Goans about unregulated real-estate development, marked by illegal construction, lax fire safety, and poor crowd control

Ishaq Hussein Khaku, a 25-year-old from Bengaluru, was excited to spend the party season in Goa with his friends. According to his father, Mohammed Hussain, the group decided to go on December 6 for 'Bollywood night' at Birch by Romeo Lane, a restaurant, cocktail bar, and club that had opened last year in the village of Arpora. Located near Baga, one of the most popular beaches of North Goa, it promised "coastal luxury", "a wild crowd", "the hottest beats in town", and "island-style cocktails", on their Instagram account.

Birch put out advertisements that Kristina Sheikh, a dancer from Kazakhstan, would perform that night. When Sheikh began grooving to 'Mehbooba, Mehbooba' from the Hindi blockbuster film, *Sholay*, sparks began to fly behind her. Videos that went viral later showed her stopping and glancing above at the false ceiling made of bamboo and wood.

"I ran home, into the arms of my daughter," Sheikh told a television channel later. "One of my teammates alerted me about the fire and I consider him my Indian god." She was one of the estimated 90 of the 100-odd people who were part of the crowd on the first floor dance area, who escaped to safety.

Hussain said he heard from the police that Khaku and his friends ran out to safety. But Khaku realised that he had dropped his mobile phone on the dance floor and rushed back in to retrieve it. He never made it out.

The next day, Hussain arrived in Goa with relatives and identified his son's body. "Ishaq worked as an IT engineer in a data science company," the distraught father said.

The fire spread quickly before midnight, aided by the palm leaf decor and inflammable materials used for the ceiling, investigating officers told reporters in Arpora. Th fire claimed 25 lives – 20 of them were staff members and five were tourists. Five others, including two tourists, suffered injuries and are out of danger, Vasanth Dhabolkar, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Bardez, said.

From music to chaos

For Bhavana Joshi, from Delhi, the party quickly turned into the worst nightmare of her life. She lost her sisters – Saroj, Anita, and Kamla – and her husband, Vinod Kumar. She managed to run to safety, while the rest of them suffocated to death, she told reporters in New Delhi.

According to Joshi, Kumar noticed the fire as soon as it broke out and alerted the staff. She said the DJ tried to extinguish the fire by throwing water from a bottle. "No one from the club management helped us out," she said. "The bouncers only helped the dance troupe get out of the hall."

Within minutes, the fire spread across the ceiling and consumed the decorations, she recalled. "There was so much smoke that nothing was visible. People panicked and ran out. They began falling on each other and pushing each other."

Joshi got separated from her family in the confusion. "The club had only one entry and exit. The same passageway also led to a basement kitchen, and several people accidentally ran towards it," she said. Joshi ran out and stood outside the club, crying for help.

> The club had only one entry and exit. The same passageway also led to a basement kitchen, and several people accidentally ran towards it
>
> **BHAVANA JOSHI**
> Survivor

"Most of the staff in the basement kitchen died," a police officer said.

Ami Manocha, a businessman from New Delhi who has made Goa his home, said some of the victims were his acquaintances. Manocha, who was to attend the party, changed his mind. He said he has not slept much since.

Manocha has met some of the survivors. "They told me that there were no fire extinguishers and that the club staff were ill-equipped to handle the incident. They did not make a safety announcement. The ground floor and the first floor were connected only by a small staircase. There were no independent exits from either of the floors to the front gate," he said.

According to the Goa Police's list of victims, the rest of the 20 victims were staff members from various States – Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Assam, and West Bengal. Four of them were from Nepal.

Rahul Tanti, 32, of Ranagirkhari in Assam, had joined the club as a gardener just a day before the fire, said his brother Deva Tanti. The father of three, he dreamed of a more secure future. He left his job at a tea estate that paid him just ₹200 per day. "Apart from the tea gardens, there is nothing that employs us. There are no industries, factories, or businesses. Farming is non-remunerative and unpredictable as Assam suffers devastating floods regularly," Deva said.

Another victim from Assam was Diganta Patir, of Dhemaji district. "He was planning to return home by January to his mother," said Vishwas Kumar, Patir's uncle. "His younger brother lives in Delhi. Patir had worked for over a decade in Goa and Tamil Nadu and had saved enough money to open a small shop in Assam."

Prakash Thapa, president of the Goa Nepali Society, who helped the police identify the bodies and trace their families, has been living in Goa since the 1990s. He said migration from Nepal to India is not a new phenomenon. "In the 1960s and 70s, the first generation of immigrants were security guards. Later came the housekeeping and cleaning staff. Now, it is mostly cooks and caretakers in houses and hotels," he explained.

The Singhs from Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand are a family of chefs. Satish Singh, one of the victims, had recently started working at the Birch kitchen. He had worked as a chef in a Bengaluru hotel earlier. "But his labour contractor shifted him to Goa a year ago, promising better wages," said Ramesh Singh, his brother, also a chef.

However, not everyone said they were attracted by higher wages to Goa. Some moved simply because it has the reputation of being "a fun place to work," said Dhan Singh, the brother of Jitendra Singh from Tehri Gharwal district in Uttarakhand, who died in the fire.

Jitendra used to work in Gurugram as a helper in a kitchen. "He and his friends then decided to shift. He did not get much of a raise, but he liked the mood in Goa," Dhan said.

Assessments in the aftermath

Soon after the incident, the police shifted the bodies to the Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) mortuary in Panjim. Doctors said only four people had suffered severe burn injuries. The cause of death in the other cases was suffocation and inhalation of poisonous gases, they said.

"Today is a very painful day for all of us in Goa," Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said after the tragedy. "Those found responsible will face most stringent action under the law – any negligence will be dealt with firmly." He ordered a magisterial probe and a police investigation.

The Union government announced compensation of ₹2 lakh to the families of each of the deceased and ₹50,000 for each injured person. The State government announced compensation of ₹5 lakh and ₹50,000, respectively.

As per the First Information Report filed on December 7, the Goa Police have booked the owners – Saurabh Luthra and his brother Gaurav Luthra – and their partner, Ajay Gupta, among others, under Sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 125(a)(b) (endangering lives and personal safety) and 287 (negligent handling of fire or combustible material) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

The police have so far arrested chief general manager Rajiv Modak, general manager Vivek Singh, bar manager Rajveer Singhania, gate manager Priyanshu (Riyanshu) Thakur, and employee Bharat Kohli. A court in Goa sent Gupta to police custody for seven days. Sources said the Luthra brothers, who escaped to Phuket from Delhi, were detained in Thailand on December 11, based on a request from Indian law enforcement agencies. They said the process to deport the brothers to India has been initiated.

"Officials are also studying the financial transactions of the three partners and the land owner, Surinder Kumar Khosla. Legal action will be initiated if violations are found," Superintendent of Police Harish Madkaikar told reporters.

Sawant told the media that a committee led by the Revenue Secretary would review the safety protocols being implemented in nightclubs and similar establishments in Goa. It will not only report violations, but also suggest a road map for avoiding such incidents in the future, he said.

The Bardez district administration has sealed the premises of Birch. Officials also demolished a temporary structure put up by Romeo Lane in Ozrant in Vagator village, which faced allegations by the district administration of encroaching on government land. The wooden extension to the main building was demolished last year too, but it was rebuilt later, local newspapers in Goa reported. A tourism department official in Panjim said that of the 16 properties of Romeo Lane in the country, six are in Goa.

A Thai policeman with Gaurav Luthra and Saurabh Luthra (right) who fled to Thailand after the fire at their Goa nightclub. PTI

> The nightclub is close to the Baga river and the sea. The owners have violated CRZ norms, rules regarding salt pans, and town and country planning codes as well.
>
> **ROHIT BRAS DE SA**
> Advocate

Many allegations of violations

Activists allege that violations of building, safety, and environment norms is neither new, nor surprising in Goa. "In fact, we Goans have come to believe that violations are the norm," said Sarika Vashist, a resident of Mapusa.

Vashist said most buildings, including the one in which she lives, have been built on the back of violations. "We have been complaining to every authority – from the panchayat to the Chief Minister's Office – but in vain. Some officers told me that if they acted tough against business owners, investment in Goa would come down. It is absurd. What if deliberate non compliance leads to such tragedies," she asked.

Vashist also said business owners target and silence activists using legal and other means. "I have faced multiple lawsuits and personal threats. But I will not back off," she said firmly.

Glen Fernandes, a member of Calangute Collective, a volunteer group fighting for environment conservation, said that Birch had violated several rules. "The land on which it operated was a salt pan and fish farm and cannot be used for non-agriculture purposes, as per Section 3 of the Goa Agriculture Tenancy Act, 1964. Also, under Goan law [The Goa Restrictions on Transfer of Agricultural Land Act, 2023], it can neither be sold nor bought. The owners violated the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms as well," he alleged.

Fernandes said he was assisting the original land owners – Pradeep Amonkar and Sunil Divkar – who had complained against the nightclub. "In an earlier case, we approached the High Court to seal around 20 illegal clubs and other businesses," he said.

A writ petition filed by the original owners of the land in the High Court has prayed for a court-monitored inquiry. They have asked for a detailed inspection of the premises, the sealing of operations, demolition of the building, and action against officials responsible for the grant of permits and licences. The case is scheduled to come up for hearing on December 16.

Rohit Bras De Sa, advocate for the petitioners, said the petitioners had issued a legal notice to the club and some officers on November 4, 2025. "We said that it was clearly an unauthorised commercial establishment. We said that it was allowed to function by officials who were guilty of contributory negligence and dereliction of duty. We sent it to the owners and all the concerned departments. But we did not get any response. The writ petition makes similar claims with similar prayers," he said. He urged the government to fix personal liability on officials who allowed the alleged illegal construction and operations.

Like Fernandes, De Sa alleged that the club violated many rules. "The nightclub is close to the Baga river and the sea. This is a notified CRZ 1 (B) region. The owners have violated CRZ norms," he said. "They also violated rules regarding salt pans. They constructed an basement built in the water body. They have violated town and country planning codes as well. They do not have occupancy certificates. We suspect that officials at all levels are involved in allowing the illegalities."

Rajendra Kerkar, 60, an environment conservationist, lives in the village of Keri-Sattari, at the edge of the Mhadei wildlife sanctuary. He said, "Salt pans need to be conserved. For centuries, salt made in Goan pans was exported to Europe. Even today, the entire populations in villages such as Nirul are engaged in making salt."

The blame game

Roshan Redkar, the sarpanch of the Arpora-Nagoa panchayat, claimed that the panchayat had suspected irregularities in the club, got it inspected, and ordered for a demolition. But the Directorate of Panchayats in the State government stayed the order, he said.

MLA Michael Lobo responded that the state cannot be blamed. "The panchayat made two major mistakes," he said. "In its enthusiasm, it crossed the boundaries of its jurisdiction and issued a no objection certificate for a restaurant-cum-nightclub. Panchayats do not have the power to do that; only the State government's Excise Department does. The panchayat should have sealed the club, rather than trying to demolish it. That is why the owners got a stay," he said.

The Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) have both demanded that Sawant resign. Congress termed the State government "corrupt" and "anti-people", while AAP said nightclubs and bars were "dens of extortion."

Kerkar believes that there is only way out of the problems that Goa faces today. "That is eternal vigilance by the citizenry," he said.

rishikesh.desai@thehindu.co.in

From Page One

Guttedars named prime accused in Aland case

SIT officials had conducted searches in the residence of Subhash Guttedar in October this year. FILE PHOTO

The SIT is likely to approach the court, seeking directions to the EC for the same.

Mr. Guttedar, a four-time MLA from Aland, was contesting against B.R. Patil of the Congress, then a three-time MLA from the constituency. Mr. Guttedar had won the seat in 2018 by a narrow margin of 697 votes.

The Guttedars hired Akram Pasha, who ran a call centre-like firm in Kalaburagi, to target and delete the names of voters whom they suspected would vote for Mr. Guttedar's opponent, the chargesheet said, adding that they had marked such voters on the electoral rolls. When the SIT raided multiple premises linked to the Guttedars, they had burnt and destroyed evidence in Aland, the SIT alleged in the chargesheet.

Mr. Pasha was paid ₹80 for every forged Form 7 application his firm made to delete a voter from the list without their knowledge, the chargesheet alleged. The 22,000-plus pages of the chargesheet include several technical pieces of evidence, including the money trail between the Guttedars and Mr. Pasha's firm, sources said.

Modus operandi

Mr. Pasha, along with his brother Aslam Pasha and relative Mohammed Ashfaq, created accounts on the National Voters' Services Portal (NVSP) using fake credentials. They had bought these from a website, https://otpbazar.online, which was run by West Bengal-based Bapi Adya, who was paid from the account of Mr. Akram Pasha's wife.

Mr. Ashfaq not only used the laptop and mobile phone provided to him by the Pasha brothers for the purpose, but also his mobile phone and Internet connection. These devices have been recovered and are part of the evidence, sources said.

Using these fraudulently created login IDs, the trio made 5,994 forged Form 7 applications between December 12, 2022, and February 16, 2023. These applications were made in the names of other random voters of the Aland constituency. Neither the person in whose name the application was made, nor those whose names were sought to be deleted, were aware of the action.

Caught and charged

Mr. Patil, the Congress candidate from Aland who had won that election, was tipped off to the forged Form 7s when a booth-level officer (BLO) found a Form 7 submitted to delete her own brother's name from the list, which he had no knowledge of. This man was a follower of Mr. Patil and lodged a complaint with the EC in February 2023.

Verification on the ground revealed that, of the 6,018 Form 7s received in Aland, only 24 were genuine, while 5,994 were forged. The Returning Officer filed a complaint, based on which an FIR was registered, and later transferred to the SIT.

The seven accused have now been charged with criminal conspiracy, providing false information to a public servant, forgery, impersonation, and destruction of evidence under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, and for identity theft under the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Former Home Minister Shivraj Patil passes away at 90, tributes pour in

Starting his political career in the municipal council of Latur in Maharashtra, the Congress leader went on to occupy high constitutional offices, including that of Lok Sabha Speaker, Union Minister, Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former Union Home Minister and Congress leader Shivraj Patil, passed away at his home town Latur in Maharashtra on Friday morning, following a brief period of illness. He was 90.

He is survived by his son Shailesh Patil, daughter-in-law Archana, a BJP leader, and two granddaughters.

President Droupadi Murmu condoled the loss of a prominent public figure who held several public offices.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to social media platform X to offer his condolences to the departed leader's family.

"Saddened by the passing of Shri Shivraj Patil Ji. He was an experienced leader, having served as MLA, MP, Union Minister, Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly as well as the Lok Sabha during his long years in public life," Mr. Modi said, adding, "He was passionate about contributing to the welfare of society. I have had many interactions with him over the years, the most recent one being when he came to my residence a few months ago."

PTI

SHIVRAJ PATIL (1935 - 2025)

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge recalled his close association with the former Home Minister and described him as a man of great integrity.

"He was an honoured senior colleague with whom I shared a close bond and many cherished memories. A statesman of great dignity, Shri Patil served the nation with distinction, holding key Constitutional and Parliamentary responsibilities and contributing significantly to India's democratic institutions," Mr. Kharge said.

"His demise is a profound loss for the Congress party and for all who admired his integrity, composure and commitment to public service," he added.

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, in a post on X, said, "His dedication to public service and his contributions to the nation will always be remembered".

Home Minister Amit Shah also offered his condolences and described Mr. Patil as "a man of vast knowledge".

Starting his political career as the head of the municipal council of Latur, Mr. Patil went on to occupy high constitutional offices, including that of Lok Sabha Speaker. He served as the 10th Speaker of the Lok Sabha between 1991 and 1996. Before coming to the Lok Sabha, he had served as a legislator of the Maharashtra Assembly in the early 1970s.

Controversy strikes

He served as the Union Home Minister from 2004 to 2008, a tenure that ended in a major controversy soon after the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai. Mr. Patil came under severe attack from the BJP-led Opposition then for multiple change of attire on a single day while inspecting the sites of the terror attacks in Mumbai. The Congress-led UPA government had to remove him as the Home Minister as damage control.

Later, he was made Governor of Punjab and served as the Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh between 2010 and 2015.

CBI arrests six involved in transnational cybercrime

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), based on the inputs from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the U.S., has dismantled a cybercrime network that has been targeting U.S. nationals.

Since 2022, the accused individuals – posing as U.S. government officials from the Drug Enforcement Agency, FBI, and Social Security Administration – conspired to target people in the U.S. by telling them that their Social Security Numbers had been used for money laundering and drug deliveries and that all of their assets would be frozen.

The accused persons manipulated the victims into transferring $8.5 million to cryptocurrency wallets and foreign bank accounts, by claiming that their funds were at risk.

The accused were found to be running an illegal call centre in Noida.

Census 2027 to cost ₹11,718 crore, no separate budget earmarked for NPR

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved the proposal for conducting Census of India 2027 at a cost of ₹11,718.24 crore, a government statement said.

Unlike 2019, the statement does not mention a separate budgetary allocation for updating the National Population Register (NPR), which is the first step for the creation of a countrywide National Register of Citizens (NRC).

In 2019, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved ₹3,941.35 crore for updating the NPR and ₹8,754.23 crore for conducting the Census of India 2021, which could not be conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NPR, which was first collected in 2010 and updated in 2015 and already has a database of 119 crore residents, was to be updated with the first phase of Census in 2020. On July 29, the government informed the Lok Sabha that no decision has been taken to update the NPR during the forthcoming Census exercise.

Officials conducting a pre-test exercise for Census 2027 in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh. R.V. MOORTHY

Union Home Minister Amit Shah posted on X, "The outcome of the Census 2027 will serve as the new compass for development, mirroring India's latest population data with more accuracy. The precision in data will accelerate Modi Ji's vision of delivering the benefits of good governance and development to citizens of every demographic denomination, making the slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' a grand reality of New India in the Amrit Kaal."

The government's statement on Friday said that the "largest administrative and statistical exercise in the world" will ensure that data are provided to Ministries in a "clean, machine-readable and actionable format" as part of the "Census-as-a-Service (CaaS)" initiative.

This will be the first digital Census and the first to enumerate caste in independent India. "The current endeavour would be to make available the coming Census data at the shortest possible time across the country. Efforts will also be made to disseminate Census results with more customised visualisation tools," the statement said.

The government said that a nearly 18,600-strong technical workforce will be engaged for about 550 days at the local level.

"The enumerators, generally government teachers and appointed by the State governments, will be doing the field work of Census in addition to their regular duties," it said.

Data will be collected using mobile applications and a dedicated portal, namely Census Management and Monitoring System, has been developed for monitoring the Census process in real time.

Zubeen Garg case: SIT slaps murder charge against four

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Assam's Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Friday slapped the charge of murder against four of the seven accused in the unnatural death of singer Zubeen Garg.

The chargesheet, running into more than 12,000 pages, was filed at a local court in Guwahati after three months of investigation into Garg's death while swimming off an island in Singapore on September 19. The SIT visited Singapore and recorded the statements of more than 300 people.

Garg, 52, was scheduled to perform at the 4th North East India Festival (NEIF) in Singapore.

The SIT chief and Special Director-General of Police (CID), Munna Prasad Gupta, said the four accused – NEIF organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta,

Zubeen Garg

Garg's manager Siddharth Sharma, bandmate Shekhar Jyoti Goswami, and co-singer Amritprabha Mahanta – have been charged under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Sections 103 (murder), 3 (common intention), and 61 (criminal conspiracy).

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the State's next step would be to approach the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court for a fast-track court for the trial. "We will appoint a special public prosecutor," he said.

Prominent leaders from Assam join Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prominent leaders from Assam joined the Congress on Friday in the presence of general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal.

Those who joined the party on Friday included former Minister Bubul Das, Gautam Dhanowar, Ashok Kumar Roy Prodhani and Longki Tokbi. Earlier, four other senior leaders – Birkhang Boro, Sankar Jyoti Kutum, Shah Nawaz and Kuldeep Rajbongshi – had joined the party.

Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi said that Assam had been facing serious problems of unemployment during the last ten years of the BJP rule as industries had shut down. "The only industry currently running in Assam is the industry of hate being operated by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma," he said.

BJP MLAs of Manipur called to Delhi amid buzz on new govt. formation

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The central leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has summoned the party's Manipur MLAs to New Delhi for a meeting on December 14. The development coincided with President Droupadi Murmu's two-day visit to the State that concluded on Friday.

"We have been called to review the situation in Manipur. We are not aware of the agenda, but a discussion on forming a government is a possibility," former Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said at a function marking the observation of the 86th Nupi Lal Day.

Nupi Lal refers to two women-led uprisings (1904 and 1939) in which Manipuri women resisted British colonial policies and asserted their rights and dignity.

Manipur has been under President's Rule since February 13, four days after Mr. Singh resigned as the Chief Minister. The State has been scarred by ethnic clashes between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo people that broke out in May 2023, claiming more than 260 lives and displacing 62,000 people.

Manipur's BJP leaders N. Biren Singh, T. Satyabrata Singh and others wait for the President's arrival at an event in Imphal. PTI

State BJP president A. Sharda said the MLAs, including seven belonging to the Kuki-Zo community, have been asked to attend the meeting.

The seven are among 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs who have been insisting on a "separate administration" for the community before supporting any bid to form the government.

After the death of N. Kayisii of the National People's Party, the 60-member Manipur Assembly has an effective strength of 59. The BJP, which has 32 seats, continues to command a majority in the House.

Meanwhile, several Kuki-Zo organisations have expressed their concern over the "omission" of Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts from the itinerary of the President's visit to the State.

Internal displacement

The Committee on Tribal Unity and other Kuki groups said the President's visit "completely overlooked the suffering, trauma, and unresolved plight" of the internally displaced Kuki-Zo people.

The Zomi Council, the apex body of eight Manipur tribes, said the tribal people in Churachandpur had looked forward to Ms. Murmu's visit, which could have contributed to healing the sufferings of the people of the State.

The Kuki Organisation for Human Rights Trust said the President's itinerary, "celebrating Meitei historical resistance in Imphal and inaugurating projects in Naga areas", was akin to an institutionalised erasure of Kuki-Zo people.

Never write on anything *sub judice*, says CJI Kant

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Friday advised against the publication of articles on *sub judice* cases which may create an "impression" outside, while at the same time assuring that judges are immune to narratives aimed to generate publicity and drive opinion.

"Never write on anything *sub judice*. Why should one create an impression? You can be assured that we do not accept 'pleadings' from outside the courtroom," Chief Justice Kant addressed Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta orally.

Mr. Mehta was indignant about the "concurrent, narrative building" that certain "tabloids" engage in about *sub judice* cases. These articles, the law officer said, inevitably appear proximate to the day of the court hearing.

The verbal exchange came against the backdrop of a newspaper article on Friday about a pregnant woman, Sunali Khatun, and her eight-year-old son, who were pushed into Bangladesh. The court's nudge saw the Centre arrange the return of the mother and son to India on "humanitarian grounds".

Justice Surya Kant

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the State of West Bengal, which is currently taking care of the mother-son duo, tried to persuade the court that commentary on judicial orders and proceedings were part of the public discourse globally.

"But half-baked truths and distorted facts given by ill-informed people through their writing and commenting affect public perception," Chief Justice Kant observed.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, on the Bench, said the judges were "completely immune to publicity" as long as these narratives did not affect the lives of individuals.

Chief Justice Kant remarked that writers ought to wait till the pronouncement of judgment by the court, and then engage in constructive criticism. This way, the court could also make improvements in justice administration.

Mr. Mehta found nothing wrong in clear, level-headed reportage. "Reporting a matter, nothing wrong with that, because you are bringing to the public domain that matters," he explained.

But Mr. Sibal said commentary was part of free speech so long as they did not impute motives.

RS adjourned briefly after Opposition cites absence of Ministers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Kiren Rijiju speaks in the Rajya Sabha on Friday.

Rajya Sabha proceedings on Friday were adjourned for 10 minutes after the Opposition objected to the absence of Cabinet Ministers during the proceedings, which it said was an "insult" to the House.

Soon after the House paid tributes to those who had lost their lives during the December 13, 2001 terrorist attack on Parliament, the Opposition MPs pointed out that none of the Cabinet Ministers were present in the House.

Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan said he will take it up and asked a junior Minister to request the presence of a Cabinet Minister. "I understand the procedure. I have requested the Minister. One of the Cabinet Ministers should come," he said.

The Opposition MPs, however, were not satisfied. "This is an insult to the House. You have to adjourn the House till the Cabinet Minister comes," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said.

After waiting for about five minutes, Mr. Radhakrishnan adjourned the proceedings for 10 minutes.

When the House reassembled after the brief adjournment, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju expressed regret for the absence of Ministers. Besides Mr. Rijiju and Leader of the House J.P. Nadda, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was among the Ministers present when members reassembled. Mr. Rijiju said he had to be in the Lok Sabha to mourn the death of former Speaker and former Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil. Mr. Nadda said he had questions marked in his name in the Lower House.

Later, minutes before noon, the House paid tributes to Mr. Patil, who was a member of the Upper House from 2004 to 2010.

Rahul calls for debate on impact of air pollution

Congress leader says Opposition ready to cooperate to find solution; Minister Kiren Rijiju says matter already raised in Business Advisory Council and Centre will return with debate structure

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Key point: Rahul Gandhi speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

Highlighting concerns about "a blanket of poisonous air" over major cities, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Friday called for a Lok Sabha discussion on the impacts of rising air pollution and the actions needed to combat it.

The Opposition is ready for a constructive discussion framed in a manner that both sides would not trade insults on the topic, Mr. Gandhi said during Zero Hour in the Lower House.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju responded that the matter had been raised in the Business Advisory Committee as well, and while the government was ready to hold a discussion, it would come back with a structure for it.

"We should have a detailed discussion in Parliament on this, and the Prime Minister should put in place a methodical, systematic plan for each city – one that can, over the next five or 10 years, make life easier for our people," Mr. Gandhi said. "Most of our major cities are living under a blanket of poisonous air. Millions of children are getting lung disease. Their future is being destroyed. People are getting cancer. Older people are struggling to breathe," he said.

"This is an interesting issue because I am certain that there would be full agreement between the government and us on this. This is not an ideological issue; everybody in the House agrees that air pollution, and the damage it is doing to our people, is something we should cooperate on," the Leader of the Opposition said, adding that it was important for the government to develop a plan to get rid of air pollution in cities.

"We are more than happy to cooperate with the government to develop such a plan," he said, noting that it was an opportunity for both the Opposition and Treasury benches to show the country that they can work together on something that is critical.

Mr. Rijiju said the government had always maintained that it was ready to discuss the problem and find a solution, taking along the suggestions from all the members, including the principal Opposition party led by Mr. Gandhi.

The Congress MP from Wayanad, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, later told the media outside the House that air pollution in major cities was worsening every year.

Congress MPs meet

Before the start of Friday's Parliament session, Mr. Gandhi met his party colleagues to review the performance of Congress members in the Lower House and heard legislators' views. He hailed his party MPs' performance during the debates in both Houses, both on *Vande Mataram* and election reforms, and claimed that the government's narrative had been "shredded to pieces by the Opposition".

INBRIEF

Anurag Thakur seeks action over e-cigarette use in LS

BJP MP Anurag Thakur on Friday asked Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to take action against a Trinamool Congress MP for allegedly smoking an e-cigarette inside the House. E-cigarettes were banned in the country a few years ago. Mr. Thakur, who raised the issue during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, submitted a written complaint to the Speaker on Friday, seeking action against the lawmaker. "A Member of Parliament belonging to the All India Trinamool Congress was seen openly using an electronic cigarette while seated in the House during the sittings," Mr. Thakur said in his complaint.

Govt. urged to issue stamp on Gandhi-Narayana Guru meet

Congress MP K.C. Venugopal on Friday asked the Centre to issue a commemorative coin and a postage stamp to mark 100 years of the meeting between Mahatma Gandhi and Sree Narayana Guru at Sivagiri in 1925. Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Venugopal said, "Gandhiji travelled to Sivagiri during the Vaikom Satyagraha, a struggle against caste discrimination. There, he met Sree Narayana Guru, who had already shaken the foundations of caste inequality..."

Government is aware of the increasing instances of fake information which can impact democratic processes, I&B Minister said. SANSAD TV

Framework to fight fake news has been made strong: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government has strengthened the framework to combat fake news and deepfakes across media platforms, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw said in the Rajya Sabha on Friday.

In response to the questions asked by Mohammed Nadimul Haque (Trinamool Congress), the Union Minister said free speech is protected under Article 19 (1) of the Constitution. "The government is cognisant of the increasing instances of fake, false, misleading information, and AI-generated deepfakes across media platforms, which can adversely impact democratic processes and public order," said the reply.

Statutory framework

A broad statutory and institutional framework already exists to address fake news across various media platforms, the Minister said. TV channels follow the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, which prohibits content that is obscene, defamatory, deliberately false, or that contains suggestive innuendos and half-truths. The rules framed under the Act establish a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism to address violations.

For the print media, Norms of Journalistic Conduct issued by the Press Council of India restrain the publication of fake, defamatory, or misleading news. It can inquire into alleged violations of the norms, examine complaints, and issue warnings.

There is Code of Ethics under Information Technology Rules 2021 for publishers of news and current affairs on digital media.

The Fact Check Unit (FCU) has been set up under the Press Information Bureau to check fake news related to the government.

Govt. can't cap airfares throughout the year, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu on Friday told the Lok Sabha that the Centre can intervene to regulate airfares under extraordinary circumstances but cannot impose caps throughout the year as fares depend on demand and supply in particular seasons.

Mr. Naidu was responding to a private member's resolution on regulating airfares, brought in by Congress MP Shafi Paramabil. His comments came amid a sudden surge in airfares following mass cancellations of IndiGo flights over the past 10 days.

"When the festive season arrives, demand goes up in specific locations. In Kerala, it happens during Onam and Christmas. There is a particular period when people working in the Gulf want to come home. Routes to Kolkata register a surge during Durga Puja and Deepavali. In the northern sector, demand rises during Chhath Puja as people travel to Bihar. These are all for particular seasons. It is not that I can cap fares for the entire year, " Mr Naidu said.

Union Minister for Civil Aviation K. Rammohan Naidu speaks in the Lok Sabha on Friday. PTI

"It's important to understand the market demand and supply. They kind of regulate fares on their own," the Minister added. He said Indian carriers have orders of 1,700 planes, but it takes time as a limited number of manufacturers deliver aircraft across the globe.

Need-based decision

He said the government intervenes when it feels the need to do so and cited the pandemic, Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, and the recent IndiGo crisis as examples of periods when such intervention becomes necessary.

However, Lok Sabha members cutting across party lines spoke on the need to regulate fares. Congress' Varsha Eknath Gaikwad said that "one airline had been allowed to indulge in *mahaloot*," referring to the recent mass flight cancellation crisis.

Samajwadi Party MP Ramashankar Rajbhar said airlines not only resort to surge-pricing routinely during the festive seasons, but also don't spare people even in times of crisis.

Trinamool MP Saugato Roy and Congress' Manickam Tagore referred to the IndiGo crisis and asked the government to take action.

Govt. likely to rename MGNREGS to 'Pujya Bapu Gramin Rozgar Yojana'

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The government is likely to introduce a Bill in the ongoing Winter session of Parliament amending the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), changing the name of the flagship rural employment scheme to "Pujya Bapu Gramin Rozgar Yojana".

According to senior government functionaries, the amended Bill was cleared by the Union Cabinet in its meeting held on Friday. There was no official announcement on the proposal at the Cabinet briefing addressed by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The original Bill passed by Parliament on August 25, 2005, was called the "National Rural Employment Guarantee Act". The suffix "Mahatma Gandhi" was added in 2009.

Flagship scheme: The average number of days of employment per household during the last five years stood at 50.35 days. FILE PHOTO

The flagship scheme guarantees up to 100 days of wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The sources also indicated that the government plans to increase this to 125 days.

As per a written answer by the Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan on Friday in the Rajya Sabha, the average number of days of employment per household during the past five years comes to 50.35 days. He also noted that the scheme was a "fallback option when no better employment opportunity is available".

In 2022, the government had appointed a panel headed by former Union Rural Development Secretary Amarjeet Sinha to review the scheme, especially the inter-State variations, and lower expenditure under the scheme in States with higher poverty rates. The amended Bill is likely to take into account the panel's recommendation, introducing exclusionary clauses based on economic indices of a State.

The government is also likely to tweak the scheme's funding pattern.

RS resolution seeks free, compulsory early childhood care

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Friday discussed a private member's resolution moved by nominated member Sudha Murty urging the Union government to consider steps to amend the Constitution to introduce a new Article 21B guaranteeing free and compulsory early childhood care and education (ECCE), including nutrition, health services, and pre-primary learning, for all children between three and six years of age. The resolution also sought universal access to quality ECCE through strengthened Anganwadi services and asked the government to focus on ECCE for its central role in securing strong foundations for lifelong learning and development.

"Children are our future. They are the rising Sun. Their early education should benefit their life. Hence I request through you sir, to our government to consider amending our Constitution to give fundamental right to education from three to 14 years," Ms. Murty said.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत बाडमेर
क्रमांक : 1512 दिनांक : 05.12.2025
निविदा सूचना संख्या : 06 वर्ष 2025–2026
NIB No.PWD2526A4636
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से विभिन्न सड़क निर्माण कार्यो हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 06 कार्य जिनकी लागत राशि रू. 1893.00 लाख है के लिए ईटेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है।
ऑनलाईन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख : 08 दिसम्बर 2025, 9:30 बजे से 29 दिसम्बर 2025, सायं 06:00 बजे तक
निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in व http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन सम्पादित की जायेगी। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट पर http:// eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आव यक है।कार्यवार यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है।

PWD2526WSRC18441	PWD2526WSRC18442	PWD2526WSRC18443
PWD2526WSRC18444	PWD2526WSRC18445	PWD2526WSRC18446

(सूराराम)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता,
सा.नि.वि. वृत बाड़मेर
DIPR/C/18223/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
HIDCO
West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
HIDCO BHABAN, Premises No. 35-1111, Biswa Bangla Sarani, 3rd Rotary, New Town, Kolkata-700156
Memo No. C–320(1)/ HIDCO/ Admn-4243/2024Date 11.12.2025
Abridged Notice for e-Auction
E-AUCTION FOR ALLOTMENT OF 2.04 ACRES (8268.22 Sq. Mtr) OF LAND WITH BUILDING IN PLOT NO. DF / 183 ,184 ,185 IN ACTION AREA ID OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA ON FREEHOLD BASIS FOR "INSTITUTIONAL / EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE. 3rd CALL
[e-Auction ID:2025_WB_5254] dtd. 11.12.2025

PLOT NO.	PLOT SIZE	E-AUCTION DATE	LAST DATE OF APPLICATION
PLOT NO.DF/183,184,185 IN ACTION AREA ID OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	2.04 Acres	20.01.2026	13.01.2026 upto 14:00 hrs.

For details, please visit https://eauction.gov.in or www.wbhidcoltd.com
Contact no :- 2324-6032/6037/6038 ICA- T25581(4)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
HIDCO
West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
HIDCO BHABAN, Premises No. 35-1111, Biswa Bangla Sarani, 3rd Rotary, New Town, Kolkata-700156
Memo No. C–319(1)/ HIDCO/ Admn-4359/2025Date 11.12.2025
Abridged Notice for e-Auction
E-AUCTION FOR ALLOTMENT OF 0.346 ACRES (1400.24 Sq. Mtr) OF LAND IN PLOT NO. IIB-98/1 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA ON FREEHOLD BASIS FOR "RESIDENTIAL" PURPOSE. (3rd Call)
[e-Auction ID: 2025_WB_5253] dtd. 11.12.2025

PLOT NO.	PLOT SIZE	E-AUCTION DATE	LAST DATE OF APPLICATION
PLOT NO. IIB-98/1 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	0.346 Acres	20.01.2026	13.01.2026 upto 14:00 hrs.

For details, please visit https://eauction.gov.in or www.wbhidcoltd.com
Contact no :- 2324-6032/6037/6038 ICA- T25580(4)/2025

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
PUNE METROPOLIS
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station,
Akurdi, Pune - 411044
Email: ce1pmrda@gmail.com
E-Tender Notice No. 41 for FY 2025-26
PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of "Appointment of Project Management Unit (PMU) for various works in PMRDA ".
The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: www.mahatenders.gov.in from 13/12/2025 at 11.00 AM Hrs. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 22/12/2025 up to 5.00 PM Hrs. The changes if any can be available on www.mahatenders.gov.in.
SD/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-1)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

INBRIEF

UNEA adopts India's proposal on wildfire management

India's push for a stronger global system to manage and prevent wildfires – centred on early-warning mechanisms and improved risk assessments – was formally adopted on Thursday at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) in Nairobi, the Environment Ministry said in a statement. India's resolution, titled "Strengthening the Global Management of Wildfires," calls for a shift from reactive firefighting to proactive prevention. Officials said these measures are essential to address what India called the "cascading ecological, economic and social impacts" of today's fires.

Bhagwat, Shah unveil statue of Savarkar in Andaman

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday unveiled a statue of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar at Beodnabad in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Mr. Bhagwat and Mr. Shah also attended an event at BR Ambedkar Institute of Technology in Sri Vijaya Puram where a song on Savarkar was released. The events took place to mark 116 years of Savarkar's poem titled '*Sagara Pran Talmalala*' which translates as "My soul is in torment". Savarkar was imprisoned in Port Blair (now known as Sri Vijaya Puram) by the British in 1911. Mr. Shah termed Savarkar as the most vocal proponent of the collective identity that emerges from Indian cultural values, tradition, and history. He said the title of 'Veer' (heroic) was bestowed by the people of the country.

'Cover doctors deputed for COVID-19 duty under PMGKY'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday observed that the nation must not forget the unwavering sacrifice and heroism of doctors and health workers during the pandemic days while holding that the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna (PMGKY) insurance package benefits would apply to public and private medical professionals drafted into COVID-19 duties, only to lose their lives in service.

The Indian Medical Association's COVID-19 registry records 748 doctors' deaths in the first wave and hundreds more in subsequent waves.

The PMGKY package offered a comprehensive personal accident cover of ₹50 lakh for 90 days to a total of around 22.12 lakh public healthcare providers, including community health workers, who were in direct contact and care of COVID-19 patients.

The verdict came in a petition filed on the death of a doctor who ran a private clinic in Maharashtra. Dr. B.S. Surgade's wife claimed his services were requisitioned by the government to keep his clinic open during the pandemic. She said he had fatally contracted the virus from his patients.

5,000 ex-servicemen to fill Railway pointsmen posts

They will be deployed to the key post on contractual basis; unions criticises the move; CRS had recently recommended review of the policy of appointing contractual staff in safety-critical areas

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Facing an acute manpower crunch, the Indian Railways has decided to recruit ex-servicemen as pointsmen across its network.

The Railway Board has approved the engagement of 5,058 ex-servicemen on a contractual basis as an interim measure to meet operational requirements, until regular candidates are recruited through the Railway Recruitment Cells.

In a circular issued on Thursday, the Railway Board directed the General Managers of all zonal railways to recruit the ex-servicemen through the Ex-Servicemen Welfare Boards under the Central and State governments. Their initial contracts will remain valid until December 31, 2026, with the possibility of extension depending on vacancies.

The role of pointsmen is important as they manually operates track switches and assists in shunting operations. REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

Short-term contracts

A pointsman is responsible for the manual operation of the track switches, known as points, and the signals used to safely guide trains through yards and junctions, and assisting the stationmaster in shunting and other operations needed for smooth, accident-free train movement.

After selection to the safety category, the candidates will undergo the full initial training prescribed for pointsmen and receive contractual remuneration. Only upon successful completion of the training will they be posted in the field.

Union's opposition

Those who fail to clear the training or are found unsuitable will be relieved immediately, with payments made as per contractual terms for the duration of their training. The decision has drawn criticism from unions. All India Railwaymen Federation (AIRF) national president N. Kannaiah said that unions have consistently opposed the engagement of staff on contract, including the recent deployment of AC mechanics in air-conditioned coaches.

The AIRF is the largest federation of employees' unions in the railways, he said.

"Allowing staff on short-term contracts to operate critical safety systems is a threat to safety. They have no long-term accountability or responsibility. After their contract ends, they leave with full knowledge of signals and other sensitive safety infrastructure," Mr. Kannaiah said.

CRS warning

The move comes against the backdrop of the recommendations made by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, following his inquiry into the rear-end collision between the Bagmati Express and a stabled goods train at Kavarapettai station in the Chennai Division of Southern Railway on October 11, 2024.

Classifying the incident as "sabotage", the CRS highlighted concerns over the involvement of insiders and stressed the need for the Railways' intelligence wing to strengthen internal vigilance. He also recommended a review of the practice of deploying contractual staff in safety-critical areas.

"The engagement and exposure of contractual staff for the maintenance and operation of critical safety features and systems must be reviewed as a priority and reduced to minimal in the short term, and to zero in the long term," he said in his report to the Railway Board.

DGCA sacks four flight operations inspectors

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has sacked four flight operations inspectors responsible for overseeing IndiGo's operations and preparedness to implement the new rules for pilot rest and duty timings.

According to a DGCA order issued late on Thursday evening, the inspectors, who were engaged on contract basis, are being relieved with immediate effect and will return to their parent organisations.

Several questions have been raised over the DGCA's oversight of IndiGo's operations, including the measures it took to ensure that the airline was capable of complying with the new norms, and the grounds on which it approved a 10% expansion in the airline's flight schedules for the winter season.

The DGCA had also summoned IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers for a meeting on Friday.

Meanwhile, IndiGo's board approved the appointment of chief aviation advisers, led by Captain John Illson, to review recent operational disruptions at the airline that have led to nearly 6,000 flight cancellations since November.

'PF contributions on wages beyond ₹15,000 voluntary'

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

The Union Labour and Employment Ministry has clarified that contributions by employers and employees to the Provident Fund in excess of the statutory monthly wage ceiling of ₹15,000 are voluntary, after the Code on Social Security and three other codes came into force on November 21.

The Code on Social Security replaces the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and eight other laws. Similarly, 20 separate laws are subsumed into the other three codes – Code on Wages; Industrial Relations Code, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code.

The Ministry said there would be no cut in take-home pay under the four labour codes.

In a post on social media platform X on Wednesday, the Ministry made it clear that "there is no legal requirement" for the contributions made over and above the wage ceiling. "In case the employer and the employee agree, they can voluntarily contribute on wages more than the statutory limit of ₹15,000."

It emphasised that there would be no reduction in take-home pay in the light of enforcement of the four codes. The Ministry gave an illustration to substantiate its position.

Since September 2014, the present limit has been in force. It was against this backdrop that early this month, Kerala MPs Benny Behanan and Dean Kuriakose raised a question in the Lok Sabha whether the ceiling would be increased to ₹30,000. Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya replied that "raising the wage ceiling for coverage under EPFO [Employees' Provident Fund Organisation] is done based on extensive stakeholders' consultations, including trade unions and industry associations, as the same will have impact on the take-home salary of employees and on the hiring cost for employers."

Sparkling conversations, fresh ideas at the Hyderabad edition of Lit For Life Dialogue

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Sparkling conversation, wit, humour, and ideas were the order of the evening at the Hyderabad edition of *The Hindu* Lit for Life Dialogue 2025 on Friday evening at the ITC Kakatiya.

The line-up began with author and historian Manu S. Pillai in conversation with culture journalist Nandini Nair, in an exploration of the "History as Battlefield: The Past in India's Present", beginning with current events in Parliament, including the debates over *Vande Mataram* and the use of English language.

Discussing the feminine gaze and feminism in history, Mr. Pillai explained how it was ignored in the time of the British-era historian Jadunath Sarkar, an early specialist on the Mughal dynasty. "They understood the harem as a place where women would be lolling around, gossiping, wearing silks, and waiting endlessly. But now, we know harems were intense political spaces where women could plot and scheme," said Mr. Pillai.

Author and Historian Manu S. Pillai signs his book at the The Hindu Lit for Life Dialogue 2025, Hyderabad on Friday. SIDDHANT THAKUR

Author Neha Dixit, in conversation with Kavitha Buggana, shared how the women she spoke to while researching her book, *The Many Lives of Syeda X: The Story of an Unknown Indian*, had revealed graduated amounts of information. Syeda had been a weaver in Varanasi, but her loom was burnt down after the Babri Masjid demolition, forcing her to migrate to Delhi.

The third session, "Sailing with Many Loves: Journeys with Polyamory in India", featured author Arundhati Ghosh in conversation with Nishat Fatima.

Her book also examines the mental health dimensions of relationships. "There is a lot of joy in being able to put all this in a book," she said.

Presenting Partner: The all-new Kia Seltos, in association with Christ University and NITTE Meenakshi Institute of Technology | Associate partner: Aparna Constructions, Akshyakalpa Organic | Bookstore partner: Crossword | Venue partner: ITC Kakatiya Hyderabad

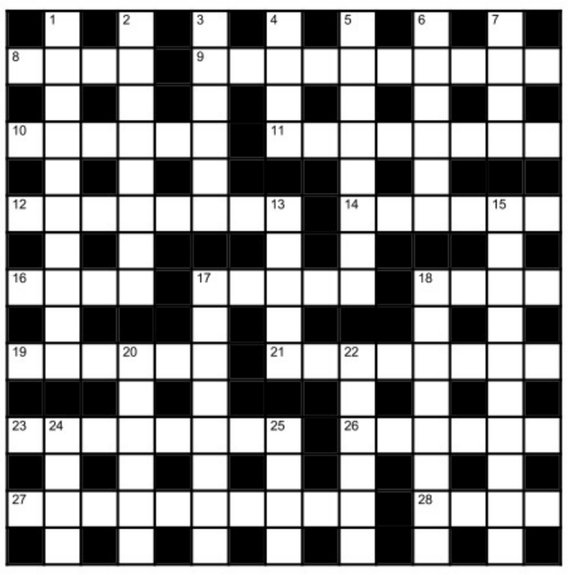
The all-new Kia Seltos
Presents
THE HINDU LIT FOR LIFE DIALOGUE 2025
THE SHARPEST LITERATURE FESTIVAL IN INDIA
In association with
CHRIST (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) BANGALORE | DELHI NCR | PUNE
NITTE | NITTE MEENAKSHI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TH CROSSWORD + 14664

(set by Vidwan)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 It is a right inner garment for women (4)
9 Young adult gifts small coin from USA (10)
10 Tech giant finally got software running in browser (6)
11 A bad actor retired and rushed to India for a queen (8)
12 Twisted fact - good is happening without human intervention (3,2,3)
14 Working with authority and waiting to be connected (2,4)
16 Not able see large covered hindrance (4)
17 Cold stink of bay (5)
18 New advances, problem rendered in voice notes (4)
19 Half of giants following to enter patio (6)
21 Dashing man of good Parisian style (8)
23 Occasionally turns in with silly Simon for activities of labour organisation (8)
26 Unending trickery is what keeps Santa Claus on the move (6)
27 Bad and good in fake pride of the elite (10)
28 Caught without force, swiftly passed ball of thread (4)

Down

1 Top with most solid, popular, ordinary kind of coffee (10)
2 Spooner's capsule world, an expanse of calm water (8)
3 Cloth label for a rabble (6)
4 Secure back freedom (4)
5 Regularly make boxes containing shower spreads for an interconnected group (8)
6 Burn Supreme Court or Church (6)
7 Aware of home working (2-2)
13 Parent pressing about alarm (5)
15 Go with fishing gear, possibly to end angling (7,3)
17 A bone remains used to make vanilla ice creams! (8)
18 Posted to border, fellow escapes punishment (8)
20 Go over moves for dance (6)
22 Next to live border (6)
24 Standard note or metre (4)
25 Game changing! Great! (4)

SUDOKU

		8		9				6
4	2			5		3	1	
					8		2	
1							7	
5				4				2
	7							3
	8		5					
	3	7		2			9	5
9				3		2		

No.SS6729 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	C	O	L	L	A	B	O	R	A	T	I	V	E	
S		C		A		O		O		E		E		S
T	U	C	K	B	O	X		C	A	T	F	I	S	H
A		I		Y		Y		K		R		N		A
R	E	P	O	R	T		A	S	S	A	I	L	E	D
T		U		I		M		A				E		O
I	N	T	A	N	G	I	B	L	E	S		T	O	W
N				T		M		M		P				C
G	I	T		H	A	E	M	O	P	H	I	L	I	A
P		I				O		N		I		E		B
O	E	N	O	L	O	G	Y		I	N	C	U	B	I
I		A		A		R		T		C		C		N
N	A	M	I	B	I	A		A	S	T	R	I	D	E
T		O		A		P		L		E		N		T
	T	U	R	N	T	H	E	C	O	R	N	E	R	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	3	5	1	9	6	8	2	4
4	6	1	3	8	2	9	5	7
9	2	8	4	7	5	6	1	3
5	4	3	8	6	7	2	9	1
1	9	2	5	3	4	7	6	8
8	7	6	2	1	9	4	3	5
3	1	4	9	2	8	5	7	6
2	5	7	6	4	3	1	8	9
6	8	9	7	5	1	3	4	2

FAITH

Power of proper worship

When we worship the Divine Lord, our sins are removed, and we become worthy of receiving His blessings. For this reason, temples have, from time immemorial, followed the tradition of performing daily pujas and conducting various *utsavas*. Among them, Pavitra Utsavam is observed annually to remove any deficiencies that may have occurred in the temple during the year. The sanctified and energised Lord clears all obstacles that hinder devotees from obtaining His grace.

Thanneerpalli Sri Krishnan swamy said in a discourse that devotees must uphold traditional norms when visiting the temple – such as wearing proper attire, applying the prescribed marks on the forehead, observing fasts on *Ekadasi* when possible, and maintaining reverence in conduct. These practices help preserve the sanctity of worship and deepen the devotee's spiritual experience.

The Vishnu Sahasranama declares that among all righteous practices, *Āchāra* stands supreme (*Achara prabhavo dharmo dharmasya prabhurachyta*). Our behaviour, conduct, and way of life should therefore be aligned with the guidelines laid down in the *Shastras*. The Lord, being the embodiment and guardian of Dharma, bestows His blessings upon those who follow the prescribed path. Practising *Āchāra* removes the latent *Tamas* within us and nurtures the growth of *Sattva*, leading us towards purity, clarity, and inner harmony.

Pious feelings alone, without sincere effort to follow the prescribed path, will not yield results. One should not alter *anushtānam* and *āchāra* to suit personal convenience; they must be upheld with discipline and integrity.

INBRIEF

Centre increases minimum support price for copra

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), here on Friday, decided to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for copra for the 2026 market season. The MSP for fair average quality of milling copra has been fixed at ₹12,027 per quintal and for ball copra at ₹12,500 per quintal. The new rate is an increase of ₹445 per quintal for milling copra and ₹400 per quintal for ball copra over the previous season.

Postal dept. mulls drone usage to transport postal bags

The Department of Posts has decided to explore the use of drone technology for transport of postal bags from post office to branch post office in select routes. In a communication dated December 2, 2025 to the circle heads, the department said that the use of drones was tried out in Himachal Pradesh and the North Eastern circle, where it was found to be economical, environment friendly, time saving, and offered facility to track transmission of the bags.

Brookfield to set up GCC for lease to MNC bank in Mumbai

Brookfield has announced to develop a Global Capability Centre (GCC) involving investment of $1 billion on a 6-acre plot in Powai, Mumbai, which will be leased out to a multinational bank. The project, to be completed by 2029, is expected to create more than 30,000 jobs. It is being developed through an agreement between Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) and a venture led by Brookfield along with its partner B.S. Sharma.

India offers 'final' deal to U.S., but tariff removal is focus

Offers 'immediate' removal of tariffs on import of items like walnuts and apples, but prioritises removal of 25% tariffs linked to Russian oil

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India has offered the U.S. a revised "final" deal, but its priority now is the removal of the additional 25% tariffs linked to Russian oil, two different sources have confirmed to *The Hindu*.

As per the latest submission, India has offered to "immediately" remove tariffs on the import of items like walnuts, almonds, apples, and industrial goods. However, these would be part of a larger Bilateral Trade Agreement, while India right now is focussing on the removal of the 25% tariffs. A U.S. team led by Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Rick Switzer was in New Delhi for two days until December 12.

The U.S. currently imposes a 50% tariff on imports from India, including a 25% reciprocal tariff and a 25% 'penalty' for India's import of Russian oil.

"India has offered the U.S. team a revised deal," an official in the Government of India aware of the latest developments in the trade deal told *The Hindu* on the condition of anonymity given the sensitivity of the issue. "This is the final offer that India can make."

"The focus now is on removing the 25% Russian oil tariffs," the official explained. "Indian exporters have told the government that they can deal with 25% tariffs since the lowest global tariff is 19%, but 50% tariffs are hurting." Two days ago, U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, while testifying before the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, said that India was a "tough nut to crack", but that the offers it has made to the U.S. were the "best we've ever received as a country".

According to a second official, Indian exporters are currently retaining customers by absorbing the higher tariffs as they feel that this is cheaper and easier than losing customers and then trying to reacquire them later. But this is eating into their profits.

"They have appealed very sincerely to the government that at least the additional 25% tariff be handled and so the government is pushing for that," the second official said.

The latest version of India's offer to the U.S. includes an offer to "immediately" remove tariffs on the import of tree nuts such as almonds and walnuts, apples, industrial goods, and items such as luxury motorcycles in return for the U.S. removing the additional 25% tariff.

"The two teams of negotiators have broadly done what they can, the ball is in Trump's court to accept the deal or not," the second official said.

This is confirmed by the fact that Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday told reporters in Mumbai that Mr. Switzer's visit was not "centred around negotiations".

A previous analysis of government trade data by *The Hindu* found that India has been cutting back on its Russian oil imports well before the U.S. imposed its penalty tariffs in August.

Penalty 'kick'

The U.S. currently imposes a 50% tariff on imports from India, which includes a 25% 'penalty' for India's import of Russian oil

- Indian exporters say they can deal with 25% tariffs since the lowest global tariff is 19%, but 50% tariffs are hurting
- They are retaining customers by absorbing the higher tariffs, but it is eating into their profits

- The exporters have appealed to the government that at least the additional 25% tariff be handled

VPN providers told to block sites 'leaking' Indians' data

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) late on Thursday evening asked Virtual Private Network (VPN) providers to block sites leaking Indian user data, and to comply with Indian regulations on VPNs. The missive cited a website that appeared to allow users to track Indians' locations using their phone number or address, apparently relying on leaked data.

The URL now redirects to a repository on GitHub, a Microsoft-owned platform for coders.

India has frowned at the idea of internet users using the web anonymously, arguing that this lets them commit cybercrimes anonymously. In 2022, the Computer Emergency Response Team, India (CERT-in) published directions that required VPN providers to maintain logs of Indian users.

VPN providers, who market their services specifically as a way to avoid such tracking of their browsing online, balked at the request, and refused to comply. Large paid VPN firms like ExpressVPN and NordVPN shifted their "India" servers to Singapore, buying Internet Protocol (IP) blocks associated with India while serving traffic from the city state. They largely continue to be available to Indian users, though, who can route their traffic through several countries.

GitHub did not respond to a query on whether it has received a request to take the repository containing the code to replicate the websites named by the Ministry.

> Users can enter any Indian mobile number to access information, including full name, address, alternate numbers, and email IDs
> IT Ministry advisory

"It has come to the notice of this Ministry that few websites ... operating in violation of law are disclosing personal details of several individuals in India such as name, mobile number and addresses," the IT Ministry's advisory said. "Users can allegedly enter any Indian mobile number on this website to access information, including full name, address, alternate numbers, and email IDs. Accordingly, it is being noticed that this website poses a significant risk to Indian users on the internet as the website permits public access to personal information of users without their authorisation. Furthermore, there is a possibility of such websites being available for access by use of VPN service providers."

A senior official told *The Hindu* that this was not necessarily a precursor to a VPN ban, but questioned the need for these platforms to operate anonymously.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	85,268	0.53
US Dollar	90.49	-0.18
Gold	1,33,600	0.83
Brent oil	60.92	0.01

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2282.40	4.70
Adani Ports	1522.80	18.80
Apollo Hosp	7101.00	91.50
Asian Paints	2764.80	-14.60
Axis Bank	1286.10	13.40
Bajaj Auto	9015.00	-38.50
Bajaj Finserv	2083.10	17.30
Bajaj Finance	1017.30	10.90
Bharat Elec	389.45	1.95
Bharti Airtel	2083.40	30.20
Cipla	1517.40	5.10
Coal India	383.35	-0.65
Dr Reddys Lab	1279.30	5.80
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7229.00	-27.00
Eternal Ltd.	298.05	7.10
Grasim Ind	2836.70	38.90
HCL Tech	1673.20	0.80
HDFC Bank	1001.50	1.20
HDFC Life	777.50	2.30
Hindalco	852.10	27.75
Hind Unilever	2260.60	-45.00
ICICI Bank	1366.00	6.00
IntGlobeAvi	4860.50	41.50
Infosys	1598.20	0.20
ITC	400.10	-2.80
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	300.75	2.30
JSW Steel	1125.50	20.10
Kotak Bank	2176.60	-3.60
L&T	4074.10	70.20
M&M	3679.60	14.40
Maruti Suzuki	16522.00	274.00
Max Healthcare	1081.30	-6.60
NestleIndia	1238.30	23.30
NTPC	325.05	2.45
ONGC	238.02	-0.39
PowerGrid Corp	263.60	-1.20
Reliance Ind	1556.50	11.50
SBI Life	2025.90	19.00
State Bank	963.15	-0.10
Shriram Finance Ltd.	848.00	0.85
Sun Pharma	1793.50	-13.70
TataConsumerProduct	1149.30	7.20
Tata Steel	171.89	5.51
TCS	3220.50	28.60
Tech Mahindra	1578.40	10.20
Titan	3880.20	35.40
Tata Motors PV	347.45	0.80
Trent Ltd.	4075.40	27.90
UltraTech Cement	11723.00	251.00
Wipro	260.60	1.35

JSW Energy board okays raising up to ₹10,000 crore

JSW Energy's board on Friday approved a proposal to raise up to ₹10,000 crore via securities on private offerings, qualified institutions placements, or any other method. PTI

Auto wholesales in Nov. keeps momentum: SIAM

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Twin factors: Festive demand and GST 2.0 aided the auto industry in maintaining sales momentum, as per SIAM. REUTERS

Passenger vehicles (PV) recorded a wholesales of 4.12 lakh units in the domestic market, reflecting a growth of 18.7% year-on-year (YoY). Two-wheeler wholesales climbed 21.2% to 19.44 lakh units while three-wheelers wholesales at 72,000 units rose 21.3%, as per data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

"Following festive demand and support from the Government's progressive GST 2.0 reforms, the Indian auto industry continued with the sales momentum in November 2025," said Rajesh Menon, director general, SIAM.

"Passenger vehicles, two-wheelers and three-wheelers marked the highest ever sales of November in 2025," he added.

Growth optimism

"Industry is optimistic the continued supportive policy reforms and improved market sentiments, would continue this growth trajectory well into 2026," Mr. Menon said.

The total production of passenger vehicles, three-wheelers, two-wheelers and quadricycles in November 2025 was 29,43,456 units, according to the industry body.

Ozempic now in India

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Ozempic, the original GLP-1 RA (semaglutide) therapy, researched and developed by Novo Nordisk is now available in India. Weekly pricing is 0.25mg for ₹2,200, 0.5mg for ₹2,542 and 1mg for ₹2,794. Ozempic is approved in India for adults with type 2 diabetes as the first line treatment, adjunct to diet and exercise.

'Nuclear, insurance opened up'

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India's Cabinet approved sweeping changes to atomic energy laws and fully opened insurance sector to foreign investors, two government sources said, in a bid to attract billions of dollars in these two critical sectors. India, which plans to expand nuclear power capacity 12-fold by 2047, is relaxing rules to end a decades-old State monopoly and overcome a stringent liability provision to allow private participation and attract foreign technology. In insurance, the government proposed removing the 74% cap on foreign ownership of Indian insurers.

Union Cabinet allows export of coal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In FY25, India produced 1.05 billion tonne of coal. REUTERS

Paving the way for further coal exports, the Union Cabinet approved a policy allowing coal acquired through auctioning to be utilised for any industrial use and export.

The current policy allows coal to be used only for cement, steel, sponge, iron and aluminium, etc. via auctions.

Effectively, the Policy for Auction of Coal Linkage for Seamless, Efficient and Transparent Utilisation of coal (CoalSETU) would now allow guaranteed supply deals (coal linkages) obtained via auctions to be used for captive consumption, export, or any other purpose (including coal washing), except for resale in India. Those securing coal linkages would be allowed to use it via the window among subsidiaries or group firms.

In FY25, India produced 1.05 billion tonne of coal.

Technical textile mission likely to be extended

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) introduced by the Ministry of Textiles in 2020 with ₹1,480 crore in total funding, ending in March 2026 will likely be extended by two years.

An official said with almost 50% of the funds used so far, the Mission is expected to be extended by two years. The Mission has four components – research, innovation and development; market development, export promotion and education and training.

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The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.bank.in & www.gem.gov.in** For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **www.gem.gov.in**

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Notice Inviting Bid No. 24/2025-26(e-Tender)
Bids for Medical Equipments are invited from interested bidders upto Date:- 30.12.2025 Time:- 01.30 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. Estimated Cost - 317.00 Lacs
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THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU REWIND 2025 TRIVIA QUIZ
DAY 08

1. Air travel was disrupted after the long-dormant Hayli Gubbi volcano erupted in November 2025 following nearly 12,000 years of inactivity. In which country did this eruption occur?
2. During a Women's World Cup match against Australia in Visakhapatnam in October 2025, which female Indian batter became the first woman to score 1,000 ODI runs in a calendar year?
3. Which acclaimed Indian actor was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award at the 71st National Film Awards for 2023?

*T&C apply.

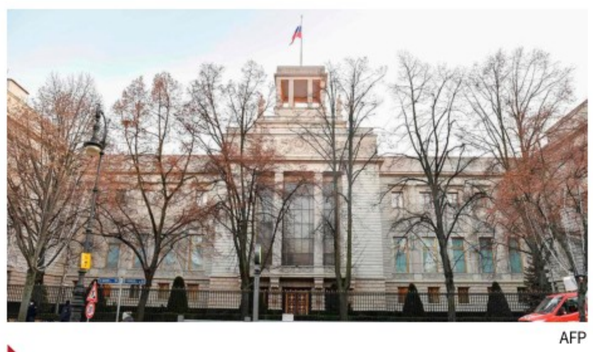
Scan QR code or visit bit.ly/Rewind2024TriviaQuiz take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Kuno National Park
2. Kerala
3. R. Madhavan

Yesterday's Winners:
1. B. Raja, Vizag | 2. Prashant Raj, Shillong | 3. Tasneem Kauser, Chennai

BERLIN

Germany blames Russia's GRU for cyberattack on air safety, election



AFP

Germany on Friday accused Russia of cyberattacks targeting its air traffic control and February's general election, and said it had summoned the Russian ambassador to protest. A Foreign Ministry spokesperson said German security services had proof that hacker groups run by Russia's GRU were responsible for the attacks. AFP

SEOUL

North Korea's Kim vows to root out 'evil', tells officials to 'have courage'

AFP

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has vowed to root out "evil" and scolded lazy officials while praising his troops fighting with Russia against Ukraine, state media said on Friday, capping a major meeting of Pyongyang's top brass. He called on officials to have "greater confidence in and courage for the future of our cause". AFP

WASHINGTON

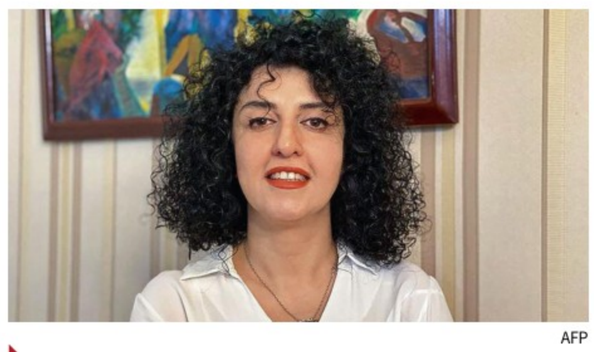
Trump appears in newly released images from Jeffrey Epstein estate

REUTERS

Democrats on a congressional panel released new images from Jeffrey Epstein's estate on Friday, including three showing U.S. President Donald Trump. Others like Bill Clinton, Steve Bannon, Bill Gates, and Larry Summers also appear in photos. Democrats said the photos raise questions about Epstein's connections. REUTERS

PARIS

'Iran arrests Nobel-prize winning activist Narges Mohammadi'



AFP

Iranian security forces on Friday "violently" arrested the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi at a memorial ceremony for a lawyer who died earlier this month, her supporters said. Ms. Mohammadi, who was last arrested in November 2021, was granted temporary leave from prison in December 2024. AFP

EU set to lock up Russia's frozen assets despite Hungary's protest

A total of €210 billion in Russian assets are frozen in Europe; the bloc is expected to decide how to use the money to offer a huge loan to Ukraine to meet its financial and military needs for two years; Hungary and Slovakia say they oppose the move

Associated Press
Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS/MOSCOW

The European Union is expected on Friday to lock up Russia's assets held in Europe until it gives up its war in Ukraine and compensates its neighbour for the heavy damage that it has inflicted for almost four years.

The move is an important step that would allow EU leaders to work out at a summit next week how to use the tens of billions of euros in Russian Central Bank assets to underwrite a huge loan to help Ukraine meet its financial and military needs over the next two years.

Done deal: Kaja Kallas signs an agreement to transfer to Ukraine a tranche of proceeds from frozen Russian assets, in Lviv in May. AP

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán accused the European Commission, which prepared the decision, "of systematically raping European law".

A total of €210 billion ($247 billion) in Russian assets are frozen in Europe. The vast majority of the funds – around $225 billion at the end of September – are held in Euroclear, a Belgian financial clearing house. The money was frozen under sanctions that the EU imposed on Russia over the war it launched on February 24, 2022, but these sanctions must be renewed every six months, and all 27 member countries must approve them for that to happen.

Hungary and Slovakia oppose providing more support to Ukraine.

Mr. Orbán said on social media that it means that "the rule of law in the European Union comes to an end, and Europe's leaders are placing themselves above the rules".

"The European Commission is systematically raping European law. It is doing this in order to continue the war in Ukraine, a war that clearly isn't winnable," he wrote.

In a letter to European Council President António Costa, Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico said that he would refuse to back any move that "would include covering Ukraine's military expenses for the coming years."

He warned "that the use of frozen Russian assets could directly jeopardise U.S. peace efforts, which directly count on the use of these resources for the reconstruction of Ukraine."

Russia's central bank on Friday said it was suing Euroclear as the European Union moves closer to using the funds.

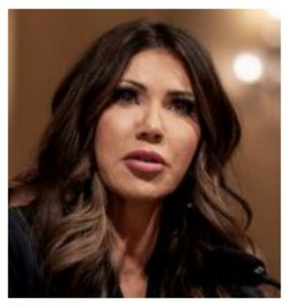
U.S. sanctions relatives of Maduro, six shipping firms

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The United States imposed sanctions on Thursday against relatives of Venezulan leader Nicolas Maduro and six companies shipping the South American country's oil.

The move came as the White House said it will bring an oil tanker seized by American forces off the Venezuelan coast to a port in the United States, adding to growing fears of open conflict between the two countries.

President Donald Trump's administration has been piling pressure on Venezuela for months, with a major naval buildup in the region that has been accompanied by deadly strikes on alleged drug-trafficking boats, killing nearly 90 people.



Kristi Noem

In a dramatic raid this week that Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said was aimed at Mr. Maduro's "regime," Washington took control of the tanker, with U.S. forces roping down from a helicopter onto the vessel.

Caracas condemned the raid as "an act of international piracy".

Russian leader Vladimir Putin expressed support on Thursday during a phone call with his ally Mr. Maduro, but with Moscow's forces tied down in a grinding war in Ukraine, its capacity to provide aid is limited.

The U.S. Treasury announced sanctions against three nephews of Mr. Maduro's wife Cilia Flores, labeling two of them "narco-traffickers operating in Venezuela".

"Nicolas Maduro and his criminal associates in Venezuela are flooding the United States with drugs that are poisoning the American people," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement.

Six companies shipping Venezuelan oil were also slapped with sanctions.

Venezuela's Foreign Ministry said it "strongly denounces and condemns what constitutes blatant theft and an act of international piracy".

Thailand, Cambodia have agreed to renew ceasefire, says Trump

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday that Thai and Cambodian leaders have agreed to renew a truce after days of deadly clashes had threatened to undo a ceasefire the U.S. administration had helped broker earlier this year.

Mr. Trump announced the agreement to restart the ceasefire in a social media posting following calls with Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet.

"They have agreed to CEASE all shooting effective this evening, and go back to the original Peace Accord made with me, and them, with the help of the Great Prime Minister of Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim," Mr. Trump said in his Truth Social posting.

Mr. Trump added that Mr. Ibrahim played an important role in helping him push Thailand and Cambodia to once again agree to cease fighting.

India frees up business visas for Chinese professionals in major step to boost ties

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India has cut red tape to speed business visas for Chinese professionals, two officials said, a major step to boost ties between the Asian giants and end chronic delays that cost output worth billions of dollars because of scarce technicians.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautiously rekindles ties with Beijing in the face of punishing U.S. tariffs, the officials said New Delhi dropped a layer of bureaucratic scrutiny and shortened visa approval times to less than a month.

India had blocked virtually all Chinese visits after the neighbours clashed on their Himalayan frontier in mid-2020. SANDEEP SAXENA

India had blocked virtually all Chinese visits after the nuclear-armed neighbours clashed on their Himalayan frontier in mid-2020, widening its vetting of business visas beyond the home and foreign ministries.

Following the news, China's Foreign Ministry said it had noticed "positive action" from India to facilitate people-to-people exchanges in the common interest. "China is willing to maintain communication and consultation with India to continuously enhance the level of facilitation of exchanges," Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun added.

The removal of red tape comes after Mr. Modi visited China this year for the first time in seven years.

Pakistan ex-spy chief to appeal his 14-year hard labour sentence

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD

The former head of Pakistan's powerful spy agency will appeal a 14-year hard labour sentence on charges including abuse of power, his lawyer said on Friday, decrying a "sham" military trial.

Faiz Hameed, who ran Inter-Services Intelligence during the tenure of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan, was detained in 2024 following claims he searched the businesses of a real estate developer in a shakedown attempt, according to Supreme Court documents.

The army said on Thursday that a military court had sentenced him to 14 years of "rigorous imprisonment".

"My client categorically rejects the charges from the beginning of such sham trial proceedings," Mr. Hameed's lawyer said.

The lawyer added that the charge of political activity against his client "is totally baseless".

Sport

Natl. wrestling — Antim eases to 55kg gold

Y. B. Sarangi
AHMEDABAD

Double Worlds bronze medallist Antim Panghal won the women's 55kg competition – she regularly competes in the 53kg – on the opening day of the National wrestling championships at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex here on Friday.

Despite brief challenges from Hansika (8-0) in the quarterfinals, Ahilya Shinde (14-8) in the semifinals and Jyoti in the final (5-0), Antim had a comfortable outing.

"I had the experience of fighting with these girls. They shuffle between 53kg and 55kg. I wanted to avoid cutting my weight for this event. I will go back to 53kg for the Pro Wrestling League and other important events next year," said Antim, who last competed in 55kg three years ago.

Superior fight: Antim executed a take-down in each period against Jyoti in the final. VIJAY SONEJI

Haryana picked up the team title, while Railways was runner-up.

The results: Women: 50kg: Gold: Neelam (RSPB) bt Shweta A. (Kar) by injury forfeiture; **Bronze:** Muskan (Har) bt Gauri Patil (Mah) 'by fall,' Shivanee Pawar (MP) bt Aarti Gurjar (Raj) 10-0.

53kg: Gold: Anjali (Raj) bt Swati Shinde (Mah) 8-8 by criteria; **Bronze:** Juli (UP) bt Archana (Del) 4-0, Manjeet Kaur (Pun) bt Meenakshi (Har) by fall.

55kg: Gold: Antim Panghal (RSPB) bt Jyoti (SSCB) 5-0; **Bronze:** Kriti (Del) bt Simranpreet Kaur (Pub) 4-2, Hansika (Har) bt Ahilya Shinde (Mah) 11-0.

57kg: Gold: Manisha Bhanwala (Har) bt Neha Sharma (Del) 2-1; **Bronze:** Tanvi (Mah) bt Chhaya Patel (MP) 12-1, Nitu (Chd) Naga Laxmi (Tel) 10-0.

59kg: Gold: Rajnita (Har) bt Pushpa Yadav (UP) 10-0; **Bronze:** Dhanashri (Mah) bt Prerna Mehta (HP) 14-4, Komal (RSPB) bt Soniya (Raj) 9-1.

62kg: Gold: Anjli (Har) bt Bhagyashri (Mah) 'by fall;' **Bronze:** Nitika (Del) bt Khushi Thakur (HP) 'by fall,' Mansi (RSPB) bt Raj Kaur (Pun) 10-0.

65kg: Gold: Pulkit (Har) bt Jaspreet Kaur (Pun) 10-0; **Bronze:** Monika (Raj) bt Bhateri (SSCB) 6-0, Freedom Yadav (UP) bt Neelam (Guj) 4-0.

68kg: Nisha Dahiya (RSPB) bt Srishti (Del) 'by fall;' **Bronze:** Mansi Lather (Har) bt Amruta (Mah) 11-0, Tanu Jat (MP) bt Manjusha M. (Ker) 10-0.

72kg: Gold: Diksha Malik (SSCB) bt Harshita (Har) 10-9; **Bronze:** Priyanka (RSPB) bt Sanofar (Guj) 10-0, Maya Mali (Raj) bt Jashanbir Kaur (Pun) 14-3.

76kg: Gold: Jyoti (Har) bt Priya (SSCB) 4-2; **Bronze:** Tanu (Raj) bt Pari Chaudhary (UP) 6-5, Kiran (RSPB) bt Kashish Verma (MP) 'by fall.'

India blanks S. Africa, to meet Egypt in semis

SQUASH WC

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Second seed India swept South Africa 3-0 to cruise into the semifinals of the SDAT-World Cup Squash at the Express Mall here on Friday. India will now meet Egypt, which eased past Australia 3-0, while Hong Kong takes on Japan in the other semifinal.

Joshna Chinappa gave India the perfect start with a straight-game win over Teagan Russel. The match was played largely in the front court, and Joshna's superior touch, pace variation, and finish ensured that the world No. 203 South African never settled. The 39-year-old, ranked 79, dominated proceedings from start to finish.

Confident win: Joshna's superior touch and pace variation was too much for Russell. R. RAVINDRAN

India's top men's player Abhay Singh made it 2-0 with a commanding win over Dewald Van Niekerk. Except for the second game where Dewald found good depth and briefly put up a challenge, Abhay controlled the tempo, playing deep and forcing errors through relentless pressure.

India's rising star and No. 1 player Anahat Singh applied the finishing touches, sealing a straight-game win over Proteas No. 1 Hayley Ward.

The results (quarterfinals):
Hong Kong bt Switzerland 3-0 (Ka Yi Lee bt Stella Kaufmann 7-1, 7-4, 7-4; Taz Kwan Lau bt Louai Hefez 7-3, 7-6, 7-5; Ho Tomato Tze-Lok bt Celine Walser 7-2, 7-3, 7-4).
Japan drew with Malaysia 2-2 (Akari Midorikawa lost to Aifa Azman 1-7, 5-7, 7-5, 7-4, 4-7; Ryunosuke Tsukue bt Ameeshenraj Chandran 7-3, 7-6, 4-7, 2-7, 7-4; Satomi Watanabe bt Aira Azman 7-2, 7-4, 7-4; Tomotaka Endo lost to Mohammad Syafiq Mohd Kamal 6-7, 4-7, 7-3, 3-7).
Egypt bt Australia 3-0 (Nardine Garas bt Madison Lyon 7-3, 7-0, 7-2; Adam Hawal bt Joseph White 7-4, 7-4, 7-3; Nour Heikal bt Jessica Turnbull 7-3, 7-1, 7-3).
India bt South Africa 3-0 (Joshna Chinappa bt Teagan Russel 7-4, 7-4, 7-2; Abhay Singh bt Dewald Van Niekerk 7-1, 7-6, 7-1; Anahat Singh bt Hayley Ward 7-3, 7-3, 7-4).

CMYK
M BG-BGE

OFF DAY

'We blinked a bit early and went away from our plans too quickly'

R.V. MOORTHY

The bowlers had a bad day at the office, so to speak. I thought we blinked a little bit early tonight [Thursday] when Quinton de Kock hit that first ball [of the 11th over where Arshdeep Singh bowled seven wides] for a six. I thought we went away from our plans too quickly — India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate.

EXPERIMENT CONTINUES

Just exploring to extend our batting: ten Doeschate

R.V. MOORTHY

We are trying things combination-wise. We have eight games before the T20 World Cup, and we have found ourselves being 35 for three more times than we would've liked over the last couple of months. We are just exploring to extend our batting — Ryan ten Doeschate on promoting Axar Patel to No. 3 in the second T20I.

TOUGH TIMES

'Gill's lack of form a bad sign, adds to pressure on team management'

AFP

Irfan Pathan said Shubman Gill's lack of form is piling up pressure not just on him but also on the management, which is wondering "what to do" besides hoping that it doesn't get any worse. Also, he said Suryakumar Yadav, who has struggled since taking over as the captain, needs to find form before the T20 World Cup next year.

TIME TO BUCKLE UP

India slips to sixth place in WTC standings after NZ's big win

FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

India slipped to sixth spot in the World Test Championship standings after New Zealand's nine-wicket victory against the West Indies that propelled it to the third place. India was placed fifth after it was blanked 2-0 by South Africa. If England stages a comeback in the Ashes then India could drop to the seventh place.

Suryakumar, Gill's poor run a cause of concern for India

The captain and his deputy need to find form ahead of the T20 World Cup; assistant coach ten Doeschate says the team management has got faith in the duo; the Men in Blue have eight matches left before the mega event

SA IN INDIA

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
NEW CHANDIGARH

The last thing a team needs is to fret over its skipper and vice-captain's waning returns. Suryakumar Yadav and Shubman Gill's lack of runs has put India in that predicament.

The 35-year-old Suryakumar has just 201 T20I runs in 2025 at an average of 14.35. The 126.41 strike rate after 17 innings in the year suggests that SKY is struggling to take off like he used to.

Gill's performance, after replacing Sanju Samson as the Men in Blue's T20I opener, has been a letdown.

The 26-year-old's 263-run haul after 14 outings (23.9 average, 142.93 strike rate) does not do justice to the trust placed in him. Gill (four runs) and Suryakumar (17) have not got going in the first two T20Is against South Africa as well.

Meagre returns: Gill has found the going tough after replacing Samson as the T20I opener while skipper Suryakumar has failed to register a single fifty this year. PTI

India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate, however, "has got absolute faith" in them returning to form, adding that he wants the duo to shut out the noise and bat positively.

"We are quite far down the road now with our planning [on leadership roles] and how we have set the team up. You should back quality players and quality leaders like that. I can understand from the outside that it looks like a concern, but I have absolute faith in them coming good at the right time," ten Doeschate said after India's 51-run loss, its second-biggest in T20Is in terms of runs, in the second T20I at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium on Thursday.

He feels Gill, India's Test and ODI skipper, should not take the extra pressure of trying to justify his place in the T20I side.

"An element of his Test captaincy [in England] and how much pride he took in that performance carried over into what he wanted to do in the T20 side. So if anything, he was too caring and maybe a little bit too tight.

"The talks were around relinquishing that responsibility, certainly in that capacity where you feel like it is all about you, and you really need to justify your place in the team. We don't want him to do that.

"Surya has been batting really nicely leading into this series... we have high expectations of these players.

"There has been a fairly long string of form now where he hasn't got the scores we like. But in isolation, we are certainly not worried about it."

With eight more T20Is to go before the 2026 World Cup, how long can India afford to look at these numbers in isolation?

Suryavanshi leaves UAE gasping in opening game

UNDER-19 ASIA CUP

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

Boundaries galore: Suryavanshi's knock included nine fours and 14 maximums. X@BCCI

Vaibhav Suryavanshi was at his imperious best while smashing a 171 off 95 balls, powering India to a mammoth 234-run win over host the UAE in the inaugural match of the under-19 Asia Cup here on Friday.

The 14-year-old, unleashed a stunning display of batting, hitting 14 sixes, the most by any batter in a single innings in the U-19 level.

Half-centuries from Vihaan Malhotra (69) and Aaron George (69) further bolstered India's charge as it piled up 433 for six in 50 overs.

The 400-plus total is India's highest-ever in U-19 ODIs and the highest in the tournament's history.

Not enough

In reply, the UAE was never in the contest despite fighting fifties from Prithvi Madhu (50) and Uddish Suri (78 n.o.), as it could only manage 199 for seven.

Breaking records

Suryavanshi's blistering knock, studded with nine boundaries, is now the second-highest score by an Indian in youth ODIs, behind Ambati Rayudu's unbeaten 177 against England in 2002 and the ninth-highest score by a batter in a men's U-19 one-dayers.

Sent in to bat, the young opener pummeled the UAE bowlers into submission, racing to his fifty off just 30 balls and bringing up his hundred in only 56 deliveries.

He then shared a 212-run stand with Aaron to completely flatten the host's attack.

His fiery innings finally came to an end in the 33rd over when he was bowled by spinner Suri.

After his dismissal, the middle-order maintained the tempo, with Vedant Trivedi (38), Abhigyan Kundu (32 n.o.) and Kanishk Chouhan (28) keeping the runs flowing to take India past the coveted 400-run mark.

Faced with a daunting target, the UAE lost two wickets inside the first four overs, before the quick dismissals of Muhammad Rayan, Ayaan Misbah and Ahmed Khudadad in the space of nine balls left it tottering at 48 for five, effectively ending the chase.

The scores:
India 433/6 in 50 overs (Vaibhav Suryavanshi 171, Aaron George 69, Vihaan Malhotra 69) bt UAE 199/7 in 50 overs (Prithvi Madhu 50, Uddish Suri 78 n.o.).

Messi mania as three-day GOAT Tour begins today across four cities

FOOTBALL

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Lionel Messi is set to touch down in India for a highly anticipated three-day GOAT Tour, scheduled from Saturday to Monday. The football legend will travel to four cities – Kolkata, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and New Delhi – making it one of the most high-profile sporting visits the country has ever witnessed.

The Argentine magician will land in Kolkata on Saturday morning, before embarking on a packed three-day itinerary.

Honouring a giant: Messi will virtually unveil a 70-feet statue of his in Kolkata on Saturday. PTI

The itinerary: Day 1 (Saturday): Kolkata

Messi arrives in Kolkata, where he will attend a meet-and-greet session and virtually unveil a 70-feet statue of his, made by artist Monti Pal and titled 'Monumento de Messi'. It is being installed at the Sreebhumi Sporting Club in Lake Town.

A felicitation ceremony is planned at the Yuva Bharati Krirangan. There, alongside a few concerts and other special events, Messi is expected to meet West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Sourav Ganguly, and Shah Rukh Khan.

A coaching clinic for kids is also on the cards.

Hyderabad

Messi will land at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport and a green channel will come into effect owing to the Z category security he is being accorded.

The 38-year-old will take part in an exhibition match alongside Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, followed by a football clinic for kids.

Messi will take part in a parade along with Luis Suarez and Rodrigo De Paul, followed by a felicitation function.

He will then visit the Falaknuma Palace, where a private meet-and-greet session has been arranged.

Day 2 (Sunday) – Mumbai

Messi will travel to Mumbai in the morning, where he will take part in a fashion show for charity. Prominent Bollywood stars like John Abraham, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Jackie Shroff are expected to take part in it.

There, one of Messi's Qatar 2022 memorabilia will be auctioned and the proceeds donated to charity.

The Cricket Club of India (CCI) will host a padel match with cricket stars, including Sachin Tendulkar.

A celebrity football game featuring leading Bollywood actors is also in the pipeline.

At the Wankhede Stadium, Messi will conduct a coaching clinic for 60 children (30 boys and 30 girls).

Day 3 (Monday) – New Delhi

Messi will attend an event at the Arun Jaitley Stadium where the Minerva Academy players, who won three European youth trophies this season, will be felicitated. Later, two coaching programmes have been planned for the kids.

A meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also on the agenda.

Duffy. AFP

Duffy's five-for sends West Indies packing

Agence France-Presse
WELLINGTON

Jacob Duffy took five wickets as New Zealand cruised to a nine wicket victory over the West Indies in the second Test in Wellington on Friday to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Duffy took five for 38 from 17.2 overs as the West Indies was rolled out for 128 on day three. Michael Rae took three for 45 while Kavem Hodge was the best of the West Indian batters, scoring 35.

The host needed just 56 for victory. Devon Conway (28 n.o.) and Kane Williamson (16 n.o.) guided New Zealand to an emphatic win.

The scores: West Indies 205 & 128 in 46.2 overs (Kavem Hodge 35, Jacob Duffy 5/38) lost to New Zealand 278/9 decl. & 57/1 in 10 overs.

Pragg and Gukesh fighting for the World title will be interesting, reckons So

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Ready to shine: So expects the GCL to be an exciting event. FIDE

Wesley So is no stranger to India. His last visit to the country was, in fact, just a month ago, for the Chess World Cup in Goa.

The World No. 11 from the United States, who has also been to Kolkata for the Tata Steel Chess India tournament, is now in Mumbai for the Global Chess League. And he is making his debut in the glamorous league, the third edition of which opens on Sunday. He is playing for Mumba Masters, and he is happy about it.

"Since the league is being held in Mumbai, we are very much the home team," So told the *The Hindu* over the phone on Friday. "Ours is a great team."

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, Koneru Humpy, D. Harika and Bardiya Daneshvar are his teammates. "I have known Maxime and Shakh for a long time," he said.

"I played against Harika 17 years ago at Wijk aan Zee, and it was an interesting game. And Humpy is such a strong player and very very experienced. It is going to be an exciting tournament with all the teams having lots of excellent players. And I really like the concept of the Global Chess League with all its innovations. Besides, I always enjoy playing in team events."

So is hoping for a much better show as a player after the disappointment of the World Cup, in which he was knocked out in the second round. "I don't want to make excuses for my performance, but I was a bit tired after playing the strong US National championship (in which I finished second)," he said. "Yes, it is disappointing that I could not qualify for the Candidates (from the World Cup)."

He believes fellow-American Fabiano Caruana will be the favourite at the Candidates, to be held in Cyprus in March-April next year. The tournament will determine D. Gukesh's challenger for the World title.

"Fabi has so much experience at the Candidates and has also played the World championship match," said So.

"I think it will be great if he becomes the challenger, but I think Praggnanandhaa also has a strong chance, and he has had a great year, winning so many major tournaments. In fact, a match between Gukesh and Pragg will be very interesting - two young Indians taking on each other, and they have different styles, too."

Tanmay, Aman shine as Hyderabad pulls off a shock win over Mumbai

Siraj's three-wicket haul helps the southern team bundle out the defending champion for 131; Kushagra fires Jharkhand past Punjab

SMAT

Shayan Acharya
PUNE

A large number of young spectators chanted his name as Mohammed Siraj warmed up for the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Super League fixture against Mumbai at the MCA Stadium on Friday.

As Hyderabad won the toss and opted to bowl, Siraj did not disappoint his fans. He claimed three wickets to help skittle Mumbai out for 131, before openers Tanmay Agarwal (75, 40b, 7x4, 4x6) and Aman Rao (52 not out, 29b, 5x4, 3x6) forged a 127-run partnership to guide Hyderabad to a nine-wicket win against the defending champion.

With Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ajinkya Rahane around, an aggressive Mumbai brought up 30 runs in three overs, before left-arm spinner Tanay Thyagarajann removed the latter.

Superb show: Pacer Siraj did the damage before Tanmay's aggressive knock took Hyderabad home.
MAHARASHTRA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

But things went haywire as Mumbai lost wickets in clusters, before Hardik Tamore and Suryansh Shedge forged a 45-run stand for the sixth wicket. Siraj came up with a fiery second spell, claiming three wickets in nine balls and conceding just a couple of runs.

Chasing a relatively small target, youngster Aman set the tone by picking up 24 runs in Shardul Thakur's opening over. After conceding three fours and a couple of sixes, the Mumbai captain did not bowl further. As the dew set in, Tanmay took the Mumbai bowlers to the cleaners.

Record chase

At the D.Y. Patil Academy ground, history was created as Jharkhand pulled off the highest-ever chase in the history of the tournament, beating Punjab by six wickets.

After Salil Arora's unbeaten 45-ball-125 guided Punjab to 235 for six, Jharkhand made the run chase look so easy with Kumar Kushagra's unbeaten 86 runs off 42 balls. As Kushagra dealt in fours and sixes, Jharkhand romped home with 11 balls to spare.

Earlier, Madhya Pradesh defeated Andhra by four wickets, despite Nitish Kumar Reddy rattling the top-order with a hat-trick.

For MP, seamer Tripuresh Singh struck early with two wickets, before mystery spinner Shivam Shukla's four-for bundled out Andhra for 112.

Defending a low total, Nitish took a hat-trick, with the wickets of Harsh Gawli, Harpreet Singh and captain Rajat Patidar.

However, Rishabh Chouhan and Rahul Batham's 73-run stand for the fifth wicket turned the tide MP's way.

The scores: Mumbai 131 in 18.5 overs (Mohammed Siraj 3/21) lost to Hyderabad 132/1 in 11.5 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 75, Aman Rao 52 n.o.).

Rajasthan 132/8 in 20 overs (Mahipal Lomror 37 n.o., Shubham Garhwal 33) lost to Haryana 133/3 in 16.2 overs (Ankit Kumar 60).

Andhra 112 in 19.1 overs (K.S. Bharat 39, Shivam Shukla 4/23, Tripuresh Singh 3/31) lost to Madhya Pradesh 113/6 in 17.3 overs (Rishabh Chouhan 47, Rahul Batham 35; Nitish Reddy 3/17).

Punjab 235/6 in 20 overs (Salil Arora 125 n.o.) lost to Jharkhand 237/4 in 18.1 overs (Kumar Kushagra 86 n.o.).

daCunha/AB/1073

SNAPSHOTS

Indian men's hockey team remains undefeated in SA

The Indian men's hockey team remained unbeaten on its tour of South Africa, which comprised two Test matches and one friendly.

India began with a 5-2 win, courtesy goals from Shilanand Lakra, Aditya Arjun Lalageand Amit Rohidas in the opening Test on Sunday.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh then scored a brace in the second Test on Monday to salvage a 2-2 draw.

The visitor wrapped up the tour with a commanding 4-1 victory in the friendly on Wednesday, with goals from Sukhjeet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Hardik Singh and Mandeep Singh.

Mary moves into joint lead

Mary Ann Gomes stopped the dream run of defending champion and overnight sole leader P.V. Nandhidhaa to set up an exciting final day of the National women's chess championship at Durgapur. Srishit Pandey also did her bit, beating Shubhi Gupta.

Nandhidhaa now shares the lead with Mary on 8.5 points, half-a-point more than Shubhi and Srishti.

In the last round on Saturday, Nandhidhaa will take on Srishti, V. Varshini, one of the five players on 7.5 points, will play Mary, and Shubhi will face Arshiya Das, who also is on 7.5.

The results (10th round): Mary Ann Gomes 8.5 bt P.V. Nandhidhaa 8.5; Srishti Pandey 8 bt Shubhi Gupta 8; Velpula Sarayu 6.5 lost to Sachi Jain 7.5; Arshiya Das 7.5 bt Nisha Mohota 6.5; Kalyani Sirin 7.5 bt Bristy Mukherjee 6.5; G. Shivamshika 6.5 lost to V. Varshini 7.5; Arpita Mukherjee 6 lost to V.C. Nivedita 7.5; Srija Seshadri 7 bt Sannidhi Bhat 6; Sakshi Chitlange 6.5 drew with Rajanya Datta 6.5; Ganta Kheerthi 6 lost to Potluri Supreetha 7.

Indians excel at Youth Asian Para Games

India's para-athletes impressed at the Youth Asian Para Games 2025 in Dubai on Friday, with Baby Sahana Ravi and Vishwa Vijay Tambe winning a gold and silver medal respectively.

Sahana Ravi secured the gold medal in the Class SF-9 (U-23) category of para table tennis, defeating Philippines' Lhey Marie Manginsay in straight sets.

Vijay Tambe added a silver medal to India's tally in the Class SM-10 category after a hard-fought contest against North Korea's Kwang Nam So.

Ben Sulayem re-elected unopposed as FIA chief

Mohammed Ben Sulayem was re-elected unopposed as the president of the International Automobile Federation (FIA) on Friday.

Two other candidates - Swiss national Laura Villars and American former FIA steward Tim Mayer - were denied the chance to run against Ben Sulayem due to FIA rules.

Rathan bowls Karnataka to big win

Spinner B.R. Rathan (six for 55) helped Karnataka post an innings victory over Odisha in the BCCI Cooch Behar Trophy under-19 match at Balangir.

The scores: Odisha 170 and 246 in 77.5 overs (Sourav Mishra 50, Sambit Beja 38, Arpit Mohanty 44, B.R. Rathan 6/55) lost to Karnataka 469/8 decl.

Arush smashes unbeaten ton

Arush Jain (124 n.o., 266b, 11x4, 1x6) starred for Karnataka against Uttarakhand on the first day of their BCCI Vijay Merchant Trophy under-16 match at Bhilai.

The scores: Karnataka 275/9 in 91 overs (Arush Jain 124 n.o., J. Sukruth 39, Abhimanyu 5/91) vs. Uttarakhand.

Three-way battle for top honours

The fifth and final round of the FIA-certified Formula 4 Indian Championship (F4IC) will get underway at the Madras International Circuit on Saturday.

After four rounds of close racing, the battle for the title has come down to three young drivers.

Fifteen-year-old Kenyan racer Shane Chandaria (Chennai Turbo Riders) is the points leader with 158.

Right behind him is French driver Sachel Rotge (Kichcha's Kings Bengaluru) with 134 points. Indian youngster Ishaan Madesh (Kolkata Royal Tigers) sits third with 127.

INBRIEF

Vinesh Phogat comes out of retirement, targets LA Games

Vinesh Phogat on Friday announced that she would be coming out of retirement to take another shot at an elusive Olympic wrestling medal at the 2028 Los Angeles Games as the "the fire never left" her and was merely buried under "exhaustion and noise".

India loses to Spain, finishes 10th in women's junior WC

India ended a disappointing 10th in the FIH junior women's hockey World Cup after losing 2-1 to Spain in its final classification match in Santiago. Kanika Siwach (41) scored for India, while Natalia Vilanova (16) and Esther Canales (36) netted one each for Spain in the 9th/10th place playoff.

LIVE TELECAST

Men's U-19 Asia Cup: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2 & LIV, 10.30 a.m.

Tennis Premier League: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 4.30 p.m. onwards

LaLiga: FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)

Serie A: DAZN, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8 & 10 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 8.30, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)